

SPECIAL INTERACTIVE ISSUE*

This Old House

SMART
DIY WAYS
TO SAVE
UP TO
\$9,290

Best-ever before & afters!

32 inspiring
kitchens, baths,
bedrooms,
and more

TO FIND OUT WHO
WON OUR **READER
REMODEL CONTEST**,
TURN THE PAGE



Plus

Fun
furniture
makeovers

Easy-to-
grow
roses

JULY 2013

READER'S CHOICE

***PUT YOUR HOUSE
ON THE COVER!**

See p. 6 for details



陳其南說，
「我們必須以「對等」為原則，

本邦の国名
に由来する地名、人名の例を挙げる

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MEET THE GRAND-PRIZE WINNERS

The Simpsons uprooted their life to save an abandoned historic landmark in Idaho, remodeling the 1912 structure one room at a time. Read their story, the centerpiece of our interactive Reader-Created Issue, and find out who else is taking home a cash prize, beginning on page 78.

THE SIMPSONS' REMODEL IS ONLY ONE OF MANY REMARKABLE STORIES.

TOH READER-CREATED ISSUE BY THE NUMBERS

Facts and figures from the thousands* of entries submitted by readers like you

131

Readers whose tips, projects, and remodeling tales appear in this issue

878

Iron square nails that Ed and Peony Thomas removed, hammered flat, and reused in their winning attic conversion, in Ayer, Massachusetts (p. 90)



4

Number of entrants, including grand-prize winners Datin and Stephanie Simpson, who have converted old churches into homes (p. 78)



362

Tons of #67 gravel that Charles Wright moved by wheelbarrow to backfill the 34-foot-high, three-bar retaining wall he built with 1,402 cast-concrete blocks as flood protection for his Odenville, Alabama, home (p. 97)

13,761

Pounds of bricks and blocks that Scott and Victoria Steffenhagen carried out in 5-gallon buckets while removing the fireplace of their Hyde Park, Utah, home

*4,283

Reader Remodel Contest entries that we received, via mail, e-mail, and the Web

30,469

Photos of your projects and remodels that we received for this issue

25 Looking sprinkler heads that Valerie White-Borwick had to have reinstalled, at an additional cost of \$7,000, during the renovation of her historic farmhouse, in Barre, Vermont

500

Estimated number of used razor blades "tucked together into two large clumps the size of softball" that Lorraine Farnsworth of Waltham, Massachusetts, found in the stallion cabinet upon tearing out the plaster wall of her bathroom

18

Depth, in inches, of owl droppings that P. Alan and Judy Jacob mapped out of the attic of the 1842 Greek Revival they restored in Thomson, Georgia

480

Pounds of cat litter that Mary Piskodes of Eminton, Pennsylvania, needed to properly dispose of hundreds of gallons of paint left behind by the previous homeowners





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100% Reader-Created Issue!

our reader remodel contest

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- 94 reader awards** Meet the winners of the 100% Reader-Created Issue contest.

money-savers

- 62 cheapie hall of fame** Love the space, hate the price? Let us help you find the best deals.
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TIPS



86
ONE-ROOM
WONDER

Cover Photo by LISA BLOMBERG
Styling by LISA BLOMBERG

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READER REMODEL CONTEST

Best of 2013

Click through hundreds of before-and-after photos from the finalists in all the categories of this year's Reader Remodel Contest, including Whole House, Kitchen, Bath, Yard, Living Space, Curb Appeal, Bedroom, Fireplace and Mantel, and more. Go to thisoldhouse.com/jul2013 for links to all the galleries.

TABLETS

Bonus features

See compelling videos, extra images, and more product choices—including the reverse timekeeping faces of the thermometers in our shopping story (page 45)—in the digital edition of *This Old House* magazine. Get your copy at thisoldhouse.com/tablet.



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your house here

1

On your mark...

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2

Get set...

With the Blippar app open, hold your smartphone or tablet over any page that has the interactive icon shown above.

3

Blip!

Match the page jumps to life on your screen!

4

Tap away.

Follow the on-screen instructions to access extra videos, photo galleries, and cut lists.

Here's what you'll find when you scan these pages:

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- Put your own house on the cover of TOH
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- Page 58
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Building an address plaque

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- Video tour of the winning house, a gallery of the curb appeal finalists
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- Page 108
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Letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

Tales of DIY grit—and glory

They make what you find through seem normal," Eric said to me, smiling you folks and my own remodel. Eric is the special projects editor at *TCM*, and this time of year he's responsible for working with all of you who send in pictures and stories and tips for our annual Reader-Created Issue.

He was telling me about some of his favorite submissions and held up a photo, from Teresa and Martin Biley, of a handsome Italianate house in Meadville, Pennsylvania, which would have patch in the front lawn. "Check this out," he said and then began to read from Teresa's note: "You can still see the fresh dirt where we buried the first contractor."

Ah, memories... Or maybe the better term is *frustration*. Teresa's letter made me think of the first contractor, heavily medicated yet still mentally unbalanced, that my wife and I hired the electrician who fled the country before final inspection, the deck builder who loaded our basement full of tools and then disappeared.

I would add if my deck guy crossed Teresa Biley, too. "Who else wrote?" I asked, and Eric told me about Heather and Dan Albright. The couple had decided that surviving the stress of a remodel before marriage was a good indicator that they could survive anything, and so Dan proposed to her after a day of hanging drywall in the kitchen. I could relate: Before we were married, my wife, in the middle of our deck project, had decided she was either leaving me or marrying me, depending on how it all turned out.

Six years later, I can say that keeping a sense of humor helped us survive the remodel. Just like it did for many of you. Eric shall me a letter from Allen Smith, who leaned on the joke when he was sweating without a sink and stove:

"How do you get by without a kitchen?"

"Well, I can still make my favorite thing."

"What's that?"

"Reservations!"

That's one way to reduce the stress of home improvement, which Ron Tompkins knows to be considerable. Refraining in a particularly "nerve-racking" wallpaper job he did with wife Nancy, Ron told us, "Hissing been a first responder, I'd rather disarm a bomb!"

As you know, though, DIY mishaps don't have to be explosive to be disastrous. Take Wayne Brown, who lost a couple of fingertips during a excavation. Or Caroline Hinchey, whose roofer beamed, booted her leg and resulting in three surgeries. I recalled my own mishaps through the years: dropping the air compressor on my great toe, shanking the big fella's nail right off and



The author, Teresa Biley, shows Reader Remodel Contest entries with deputy editor Kathy Keller and special projects editor Dan Hinchey.



Teresa and Martin Biley's contractor turned here (clockwise).

PALETTE TALK

DAVID BROMSTAD

Eye is my sign, but Urban Organic is my collection.

Everyone has a distinct color collection from HGTV HOME by Sherwin-Williams that best matches their personality and color preferences. Take this simple quiz like I did to find the collection for you. Plus get tips on how to use the paint colors to create your perfect space.

THE URBAN ORGANIC COLLECTION



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Letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

handing the home in the process. Smacking my head on the stone when I hit the crown of the half-finished deck. The near electrocution of my brother and me when we cut into a hidden 220-volt line while renovating a room in the ceiling in the basement.

By the end of Eric's presentation, I felt, you know, bad. Not because it exposed the mid-frank wounds of my own oafed, though it certainly did that. I felt bad because reality of you—before you ultimately triumphed in making your own house a better home for your family—had clearly oversteered and self-steered (and even lifted a lot) too. And I wished we could feature every one of your efforts in this edition of TOH. You sent us more than 30,000 photographs for the Reader-Created Issue, and, well, you're holding a magazine, not a library. Tap, it disappoints me as much as it rarely meets you that there's room for only one image on the covers, in this case the loveliness of the Simpson family, of Eagle, Idaho, who won our Reader Remodel Contest grand prize: \$5,000 and a 2014 GMC Sierra.

But, to quote Eric, check it out. No, we can't feature you all on the covers. But we found a way for you, with the help of an app called Bippap, to feature yourself on the covers. Here's the deal: Download the free Bippap app to your smartphone or tablet, launch the app, and hold your device over the cover of this issue, once the screen jumps to life, tap it, and you'll see the The Old House cover template. Then use the camera to frame your favorite project or remodeled room or garden or your entire house. Just tap the photo icon and—poof!—a TOH cover featuring your handiwork! Once you've got a cover you like, you can print it, post it to your social network, even e-mail it. And if you send your creation to me at scott@theoldhouse.com, I'll make sure we put as many as we can on the TOH Facebook page.

It's the least we can do to give all of you the credit that we know you deserve.

Scott Williamson
SCOTT WILLIAMSON, EDITOR
scottwilliamson.com



Ryan Smith



Emily and Tom Shapiro



Taylor and Laura Brown



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home solutions

INSIDE | CREATIVE REUSE | 10 USES | PLAY STATION | EASY DIY | CLEVER IDEAS



She built a family-friendly porch swing

Angi Brittram
TAMPA, FLORIDA
"It was all my 9-year-old daughter's idea."

There's something magical about a seat that swings. Eva Brittram, 8, thinks so too. So last spring she showed her mother a photograph of a rope-hung daybed and asked if they could build one. Mom Angi, a contractor, happily obliged. "You sketched it and I tweaked the dimensions," says Angi, who added details, such as bracket-shaped supports and secured outlets for cup holders. Construction was a team effort, with Eva tracing the shapes onto cedar, Angi handling cutting and assembly, and Eva sanding and staining the piece. Now that it's finished, even older daughter Claire, 13, is in on the action. Says Angi, "It's everyone's favorite napping spot."

From one thing to another

By reimagining discarded and undistinguished materials, these thrifty readers created projects that look far richer than their price tags. —*MICHAEL HOGAN*

OLD WINDOWS → MINI GREENHOUSE

Shane & Abby
MOUNT PLEASANT,
NORTH CAROLINA

Shane snapped 56—yes, 56—divided light wood windows for free when the church he attends was remodeled. He used 11 of them to make this greenhouse for his wife, Carla, to start seedlings in, finishing it off with leftover white shiplap and a piece of metal cap from his porch's old roof.



VINTAGE DOOR → DISPLAY SHELF

Blake Edwards
PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA

After moving into their 1880s farmhouse, Blake and his wife, Rebecca, found a dozen old wood doors stowed in the barn. Blake has been turning them into home decor, including this kitchen shelf. To make the shelf, he saved the door in two and fastened the halves together with L-brackets before mounting it to the wall. "I left one door half to recall the place's history," he says.



DROP CLOTH → TUFTED HEADBOARD

Jennifer Miller
HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

A first-time upholsterer, Jennifer wasn't sure if the headboard she envisioned making from a canvas drop cloth would "turn out great or be a disaster." She broke free rough-hewn fabric strokes in rose, casual notes, with the help of a scalloped plywood back, as well as a thick layer of batting, and fabric-covered buttons she made herself.



The 2013 RAV4 with available adjustable power liftgate

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Let's
Go
Places

10
TIPS

Drywall corner bead

See this L-shaped edging from a new angle with one resourceful reader's reuse ideas for remnants

2

1. Scrape away junk. Cut a piece of corner bead to a few inches long. Fold one side in half longwise and trim. Wipe off the other side. Hold the folded edge and use the beveled "blade" edge to remove sticky residue from decking or other hard surfaces.

2. Create a candleholder. Cut piece of bead to size, and insert into them into bases using machine screws, as shown (find the how to at thisoldhouse.com/jul2013). Add drops to or battery-powered candles.

3. Make holes for shelf pins. Mark off the predrilled holes you



don't forget to use: hold the bead to the wall and drill through the holes that are the desired distance apart.

4. Rest grill tools. Place a length of bead on your grill's side table outside corner facing up. Use it to keep messy basting brushes off the table when you're barbecuing.

5. Safeguard packages. Reinforce cardboard box corners by cutting the bead to length and affixing the pieces inside the box with packing tape.



Leah Brickley
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY
"We had leftovers after we renovated our living room."



6. Build a pyramid trellis. Cut three pieces of bead to a length that is taller than the plant you want to train. Fan the pieces out to start the bottom ends form a triangle. Join the tops with a machine screw and nut. Place the assembly over the plant and be shoots to it.

7. Lift up a small paint project. Place two short lengths of bead on your work surface so that the folded edges are facing up. Rest your item across the pieces before painting it.

8. Protect a work table. Tack a strip of bead to the front edge of your work surface to keep it from getting damaged.

9. Keep containers from rolling. Cut several pieces of bead to the length of each tub's wire handles or other round items that are stored horizontally and can roll out of place easily. Slide the pieces

of bead between the tubes or bottles to hold them steady.

10. Make a display ledge. Lay a length of bead horizontally on a bulletin board with one edge flush and the other acting as a ledge. Pin the bead in place with thumbtacks, and use the ledge side to hold pens and pencils, photos or other lightweight items.

—FALL HOPE

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More saving. More doing.





A tube slide—inside!

Forget about stairs. This proud papa devised a more fun way down —RACHEL WELLS



A "door to nowhere" in a bedroom, an artifact of the prior owner's remodel, inspired Jeff Tarron of Saint Charles, Illinois, to give his kids a fun way to access their huge-embiggened playroom. Instead of a ladder, he put in a spiral-shaped tube slide that he cobbled together from a second-hand slide found on Craigslist and a few spare parts from a neighborhood playset. Handworking Jeff also won a cash prize for his remodeled bathroom (see page 99), but this project could earn him yet another award: Funest of the Year.



PHOTO: JEFF TARRON

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LOG
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Faux-log summer front



Whether your fireplace is out of commission
and for the season or more decorative than
functional, follow the example of *This Old House*
reader Morgan Spauld of San Diego,
California, and play it up as a focal point.

1 I had the look of stacked logs inside but wanted
something easy to remove," she says. So with a few simple
tools and materials, she built a summer front that can be
set aside when it's time to light up some firewood. Here's
how to make one of your own.

A Cut gathered logs into disks 3 inches thick. Morgan's
project required about 50 disks, equivalent to roughly 12 to
13 feet of wood. She chose Monterey pine for its light color.

B Cut a piece of plywood to fit inside the firebox, and give it
two coats of black paint on a water finish. Let dry completely.

C Arrange the disks on the board to fit together tightly—
remember, they should appear stacked. Secure each with
wood glue and let dry. Then use a nail gun to secure the
disks to the board from the back. Place the finished front
inside the firebox. Morgan tucked hers behind the lip of her
fireplace's curtain screen, but you could make a kickstand
support from a triangular piece of wood if needed. —*ew*

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Ways you wowed us

From baby's first bedroom to a DIY bathroom sink, these seven reader projects are just a few impressive examples of your prowess — >>>

Storage-packed nursery decor

I've been in charge myself, personally and with Google+ friends for ideas to customize my newborn daughter's bedroom. Everywhere I see a project I thought, "How do I better?" Finally, I decided to build a wall of letter-size alphabet blocks from MDF and wood, many of which I constructed as cabinets, drawers, and nooks to hold her toys and clothes. — **Daniel Lackey, LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS**



Cedar garden arbor and gate

This is a home do project that my husband and I previously built for me. The design was based on an expensive photo of an arbor we saw in a magazine. I had a circular top and gate, and a simple and elegant of traditional lattice. We used cedar for the arbor and gate. The Old House's online story on order to build. — **Christy Leysor, MATTOON, ILLINOIS**

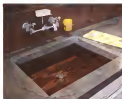


Detailed doorway

From medieval style, but additional because it had the original woodwork in the surrounding our front door. To highlight the beautiful



details even more, I wanted to create contrast with an accent color and white paint. But before doing so, I took a picture of the door, made a couple of copies, and played around with markers to see where the color should go. That way, it was easy to figure out which features to accentuate. — **Mark Andrew, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY**



Reclaimed-walnut sink

I didn't know it could pull out making a bathroom sink from wood, but figured it gave it a shot. My wife and I designed it using CAD software and carved the design with a 3-D router. Then we waterproofed it with four coats each of two epoxy and varnish. — **Brett Haxagen, WHEATON, ILLINOIS**



Handmade fireplace



Our living room needed a touch of old-world charm. So I built this fireplace surround out of parts I made and added a second-hand carved arch at the top. I couldn't resist putting in a couple of cast-iron stoves, a secret door that provides access to the pantry and removable hooks for hanging Christmas stockings. — **Brett Smith, LAMONA HARBOR, NEW JERSEY**



Hand-built butcher block



Inspired by the look around top in the 2007 TOM

TV project, I decided to build a butcher block top for my dining table. I cut and joined 200 pieces of varying colors and patterns. I used a special glue, I had each family member place a piece. — **Lisa Hymowitz, LAKE ARROWHEAD, CALIFORNIA**



Compost camouflage

"Dad, I bought composters and I had to look up — like the spread down garbage cans — so I built a sunroom for us using recycled cypress. My wife designed it as a trellis, so climbing plants like the sweet autumn vine will be planted in the trellis and cover it. The table and legs down so that you can put crops inside, and the larger front door opens to walk in to see the compost. — **Dan and Pat Miller, ELGIN, ILLINOIS**



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landscaping

Her roses grow like gangbusters

On the way to swapping turf for cottage-style plantings, this self-taught gardener discovered a passion for her new pastime. *BRANNE STRATTON*

From blah lawn to backyard paradise



Corky Thacker
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO
"This garden exceeded my wildest dreams."

home shown on tv networks. As an adult, she considered taking up golf but decided that the last thing she needed was another competitive sport. "I'd been there and done that with horses," she says. "At last, that's how I felt until I fell in love with roses."

Seven years ago, Corky was gardening advice, though you'd never know it from the looks of her yard today. Back then, she and her boyfriend, Michael O'Brien, were preoccupied with renovating their 1930s Tudor Revival house to enjoy each other their green space. It wasn't until the next-door neighbors popped up about a decade

ago that Corky Thacker's nature—once when it comes to her hobbies. As a girl, she rode horses. Then or then, she was at the stables after school and competing in horse shows on weekends. As an adult, she considered taking up golf but decided that the last thing she needed was another competitive sport. "I'd been there and done that with horses," she says. "At last, that's how I felt until I fell in love with roses."



BEFORE With plans to renovate the ground, Corky Thacker's nature—once when it comes to her hobbies. As a girl, she rode horses. Then or then, she was at the stables after school and competing in horse shows on weekends. As an adult, she considered taking up golf but decided that the last thing she needed was another competitive sport. "I'd been there and done that with horses," she says. "At last, that's how I felt until I fell in love with roses."

A favorite dinner spot, the patio is screened from neighboring houses and nestled beside a rose-covered fence (E). Soft screens, such as pink hollyhocks, enhance privacy with help from Corky, who harvests their petals and sprinkles their seeds (C). The purple, mostly single-petaled New Dawn roses, serves as a perch for songbirds just before the garage from view (D).



shrubs scratching their ears that the couple turned their attention outdoors. The pryer hedge along the side yard would have to go, which got Corky thinking about what could take its place.

In her mind, roses would make a lovely, low-maintenance substitute. While living in Florida, she'd planted a hedge of flamboyant carmine Knock Out shrub roses along her foundation. There, daily downpours in summer washed away any potential pests. But roses may, so far as Corky was concerned. So she set out to create an English cottage-style garden to complement the house, with roses as the indoor plant. After sketching out a detailed plan, she hired a carpenter to turn her sketches of a scalloped, lattice-top fence and gate, an entry arbor, and a pergola with lattice arches into reality. She also found a landscaper to transform her lawn, rose garden and plant-ready beds.

Early on, though, the project hit a snag. Once the same paths were in place, the landscaper cut off the beds without removing several big piles of limestone dust left over from the backhoe operation. A soil test confirmed Corky's worst fear: The pH had risen to 6.5—far too alkaline for roses.

Exasperated but determined, she took the advice of a soil scientist at her local cooperative



the plan to "Corky a jungle" as a freestanding to cultivate a landscape path through the 30- to 40-foot garden, walking beds of cottage-style plantings and widening into a patio. The fence, arbor, and pergola offer extra privacy, while the roses that cover them add color and fragrance.



extension service and an about-turning 2 feet of tamped soil and ascending the foot below it with just moss mixed with coarse sand. She topped that with a mix of leafy herbs, and, repeat. "It greatly underestimates the time it would take for one woman with a shovel to do the job," she says.

A year passed between the time Corky sketched her plans and planted her first rose. She joined the Cleveland Rose Society in the winter of that year, and with every meeting, she learned about more varieties to try. Swept away by their colors, fragrances, and sheer resiliency in the landscape, she was soon planting roses in the spots she had reserved for flowering vines, shrubs, and herbs.

She wasn't always pulling disease-resistant types, however, and Ohio had some pests the lady's experienced in Florida, such as rose midges, which she now controls with a soil drench. She was learning that there was a lot more to growing roses than she'd initially thought, which only stirred her curiosity more. "I'm kind of a learning junkie," she says. "For years, I read only books about roses."

As a result, these days Corky is often the one doing the teaching. Now a consulting rosester, she regularly makes house calls, helping other gardeners troubleshoot problems and pick the right plants. She's also an accredited judge for the American Rose Society, a committee around whom herself, and the devoted caretaker of some 90 varieties. Many of her specimens grow far bigger in



A 'Jade the Glimmer' shrub rose, yellow pinnas and purple velvet from a classic cottage garden combination (A). An Autumn Sunset shrub rose scrambles up the entry arbor near the house, while leafy, self-cleaning hollyhocks grow at its base (B).

A few of Corky's favorite roses

These aged bloomers are highly disease-resistant and look lovely with minimal maintenance.

1. 'Albany de Chart'

A fast grower with big, spicy-scented apricot blooms, this fully hybrid tea has strong upright stems perfect for cutting. Grows 3 to 4 feet tall and wide in Zones 5-10.

2. 'Thorny Hudson'

This tough shrub sports dense, scented white blooms and makes a modest hedge along sidewalks and driveways. Grows 3 to 6 feet tall and 4 to 5 feet wide in Zones 3-7.

3. 'New Dawn'

Fragrant shell-pink flowers cover this climber all season, turning into bright-red tips by fall. Grows 6 to 12 feet tall and 3 to 6 feet wide in Zones 5-9.



her backyard than in advertised in plant catalogs, thanks rather rich soil and carefully chosen nutrients: a monthly feeding with Mills Magic Rose Max organic fertilizer and, to combat disease and pests, a dose of neem-oil-based spray every two weeks.

For someone whose first paying job was stacking-walls, pushing a wheelbarrow and digging a garden base felt comforting familiar. "There are a lot of aspects of gardening that mirror caring for babies," says Corky, who checks nothing of spreading 2 to 4 hours each day tending her plants. Although there is a hammock under her rose-covered pergola and a table and chairs on the patio, she spends little time as retiree upon. "I might last three minutes drinking in the scenery, before I go, 'Oh no, there's a weed!' and start in on the beds," she says. But this meticulous achiever believes the results speak for themselves. "I wanted to grow roses like the ones I saw in picture books," she explains. "And I have." ■

We asked our TOH HomeTeam Panelists:


RESTORE

"Is your deck a disaster?"

From across the country we heard tales of weather-beaten decks that seemed splintered, cracked and faded beyond repair. Our advertising partner Rust-Oleum offered 25 homeowners the chance to rescue their decks with **Rust-Oleum Restore**—a do-it-yourself coating designed to resurface most wooden and composite decks and concrete patios while providing lasting protection against moisture and the damaging effects of the sun.

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—Dana Wheeler
Casper, Georgia



“I did it all by myself (doing this project gives me confidence that I can do other repairs in my place. It made my deck look fantastic! I can’t wait to show it off.”
—Teresa Mathews
Hector, Arkansas

“Yes, it did restore the life of the deck. A very happy outcome!”
—Peter Rotundo
Lake Arrowhead, CA



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Fernandina Beach had a deck problem. Rust-Oleum Restore had a solution.



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Rust-Oleum Restore is a revolutionary, easy-to-apply repair coating that's 10 times thicker than paint. And it's proven to last over 10 years. Even in places like Fernandina Beach, Florida, where their boardwalks are subjected to extreme weather and tons of punishing traffic. So if it works there, just imagine what it can do for your deck at home. Don't rebuild. Apply the coating that renews AND repairs. Rust-Oleum Deck & Concrete Restore.

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They brought British style home

Period-look appliances and hard-wearing, time-tested finishes add English-cottage charm to this kitchen

BY GILLIAN BARTI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY DIORIAN WHITE/LAW LEE/SHUTTERSTOCK



Kathy and Chris Parsons
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA
"We used to chicken out on using bold colors."



"WE HAVE A COMPLETE service to studios used," says Chris Parsons, who grew up around vintage homes warmed by traditional one-rose Aga cookers in his native England. So when it came time for him and his wife, Kathy, to remodel the lodge-podge ranch in their 1920 house, two big influences—an updated dual-fuel AGA range and a matching fridge—set the tone for a cozy English cottage-style space.

The cream-and-black appliances also inspired the color scheme. Sourcing the rest of their materials from home centers, the couple chose cream granite counters with black flecks, and a mix of wood and cabinets with a deep-peppercorn-brown finish. "We were based on swatches for months," Chris says. A chickenboard of burnt-umk-yellow and cherry-red floor tiles complements the focal-point stoves' golden-yellow walls and a red workable island help brighten the "durable vintage look" the couple was after.

The result is a cheerful space brimming with cottage character. For ideas on achieving a similar look in your own home, read on.



shapely kettle

Kathy's collection of colorful teapots includes one like this old-fashioned steel model. \$40. www.bob.com



pot-washer faucet

This industrial-style high-arc faucet makes dish-drying a lot faster. \$100. faucetdirect.com



apron sink

A farmhouse sink was high on Kathy and Chris's wish list, not just for its classic look but also for its easy-to-cleaner-in-deep-bowl. \$999. qualitykitchen.com



mixing bowls

A drying-worship collection of bowls is an easy way to add bits of cheery color. Solid: \$25 for two, and stripe: \$37 for three. bowl.com

bold tones

Think cheery colors feel good? Live in part from its color palette: gold, white, cream, and red. And yellow. A wall-to-wall tile. \$1 per square foot and wallpaper paint in Delightful Moon (white) and Joyful Club (vibrant) very (green). \$10 per gallon. bowl.com



vintage look cooker

A solid-free AGA vintage-style nearly \$25,000. The couple opted for the updated and more affordable AGA Legacy. \$5,699. aga.com for dealers

• get this look

clear glass pendant

A simple glass chandelier as the finished Edison bulb for a warm glow. \$38, lewco.com



message reader

For a red, round blackboard with a wooden clock, as the farmhouse's did, or choose this over-the-range. \$129, piperianco.com



headboard breadbox

This painted and distressed headboard has a built-in breadbox. Write a happy grin! Soft drawer closes. A must-have for farmhouse ranch. \$129, touchacountry.com

colorful dish towels

Most stripes and plaids in absorbent cotton are pretty and practical. Red \$28 for three, and yellow \$13 for two. carterhale.com



jam and honey pots

Just add sugar? Tuscan is more fun with these cheerful sandstone jars. Their shaker-topped tops make contents easy to spread. \$28, endicottco.com



If you have an irregular heartbeat called atrial fibrillation, or AFib, not caused by a heart valve problem, PRADAXA can reduce your risk of stroke.

- In a clinical trial, PRADAXA reduced stroke risk 35% better than warfarin.
- Unlike warfarin, no regular blood tests.

Ask your doctor about

Pradaxa
dabigatran etexilate
capsules 150mg

"With my AFib, I'm glad my daughter had me talk to my doctor again about reducing my stroke risk."



WHAT IS PRADAXA?

Pradaxa® (dabigatran etexilate mesylate) capsules is a prescription blood thinning medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people with atrial fibrillation not caused by a heart valve problem. PRADAXA is not for use in people with critical (narrow) heart valves.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT PRADAXA

PRADAXA can cause bleeding which can be serious and sometimes lead to death. Don't take PRADAXA if you:

- currently have obstructed bleeding,
- have ever had an allergic reaction to it,
- have had or plan to have a valve in your heart replaced.

Your risk of bleeding with PRADAXA may be higher if you are 75 years old or older, have kidney problems, have stomach or intestine bleeding that is recent or keeps coming back or you have a stomach ulcer, take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, like aspirin, products, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and blood thinners, have kidney problems and take digoxin (Lanoxin®) or ketoconazole tablets (Nizoral®).

Call your doctor or seek immediate medical care if you have any of the following signs or symptoms of bleeding: any unexpected, severe, or uncontrollable bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time; unusual or unexpected bruising, coughing up or vomiting blood, or vomit that looks like coffee grounds, pink or brown urine, red or black stools (looks like tar); unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain, headaches and feeling dizzy or weak.

It is important to tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take. Some of your other medicines may affect the way PRADAXA works.

Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Don't stop taking PRADAXA without talking to your doctor as your risk of stroke may increase.

Tell your doctor if you are planning to have any surgery, or medical or dental procedure, because you may have to stop taking PRADAXA for a short time.

PRADAXA can cause indigestion, stomach upset or burning, and stomach pain.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see more detailed Medication Guide on next page.

Pradaxa
dabigatran etexilate
capsules 150mg

For more information or help paying for your medication, call 1-877-PRADAXA or visit pradaxa.com



To learn more and to get a sample, visit www.fda.gov/medwatch



Read this Medication Guide before you start taking PRADAXA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?

• PRADAXA can cause bleeding which can be serious, and sometimes lead to death. This is because PRADAXA is a blood thinner medicine that lowers the chance of blood clots forming in your body.

• **It may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take PRADAXA and:**

- are over 75 years old
- have kidney problems
- have stomach or intestinal bleeding that is recent or keeps coming back, or you have a stomach ulcer
- take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, including:

- aspirin or aspirin containing products
- long-term (chronic) use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
- warfarin sodium (Coumadin®), Jantoven®
- a medicine that contains heparin
- cytotoxic (antineoplastic) (Pain®)
- prasugrel (Effient®)

- have certain kidney problems and also take the medicines cholestyramine (Questran®) or bismuth subsalicylate (Mylanta®)

Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one listed above.

- PRADAXA can increase your risk of bleeding because it lowers the ability of your blood to clot. Side effects PRADAXA:
- you may bruise more easily
- it may take longer for any bleeding to stop

Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:

- unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
 - unusual bleeding from the gums
 - nose bleeds that happen often
 - menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal

Medication Guide **PRADAXA (dapagatran tablets)** **capsules**

- bleeding that soaks in your sweat clothes
- pink or brown urine
- red or black stools (look like tar)
- bruising that happens without a known cause or get larger
- cough up blood or blood clots
- vomit blood or your vomit looks like "coffee grounds"

- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed. Do not stop taking PRADAXA without first talking to the doctor who prescribes it for you. Stopping PRADAXA may increase your risk of a stroke.

PRADAXA may need to be stopped, if possible, for one or more days before any surgery or medical or dental procedure if you need to stop taking PRADAXA for any reason, talk to the doctor who prescribes PRADAXA for you to find out when you should stop taking it. Your doctor will tell you when to start taking PRADAXA again after your surgery or procedure.

See "What are the possible side effects of PRADAXA?" for more information about side effects.

What is PRADAXA?

PRADAXA is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have a medical condition called atrial fibrillation. Atrial fibrillation, part of the heart does not beat the way it should. This can lead to blood clots forming and increase your risk of a stroke. PRADAXA is a blood thinner medicine that lowers the chance of blood clots forming in your body.

PRADAXA is not for use in people with artificial (prosthetic) heart valves. It is not known if PRADAXA is safe and works in children.

Who should not take PRADAXA?

Do not take PRADAXA if you:

- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding. Talk to your doctor, before taking PRADAXA, if you currently have unusual bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to PRADAXA. Ask your doctor if you are not sure
- have ever had or plan to have a valve in your heart replaced

What should I tell my doctor before taking PRADAXA?

Before you take PRADAXA, tell your doctor if you:

- have kidney problems
- have ever had bleeding problems
- have ever had stomach ulcers

- have any other medical condition
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if PRADAXA will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if PRADAXA passes into your breast milk.

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking PRADAXA. They should talk to the doctor who prescribes PRADAXA for you, before you have any surgery, or medical or dental procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some of your other medicines may affect the way PRADAXA works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding. See "What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?"

Especially tell your doctor if you take:

- estrogen (Estin®), Raloxene®, Raloxene®, Relvar®

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them and show it to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take PRADAXA?

- **Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed by your doctor.**
- Do not take PRADAXA more often than your doctor tells you to.
- You can take PRADAXA with or without food.
- PRADAXA comes in a bottle or in a blister package.
- Only open 1 bottle of PRADAXA at a time. Finish your opened bottle of PRADAXA before opening a new bottle.
- After opening a bottle of PRADAXA, use within 4 months. See "How should I store PRADAXA?"
- When it is time for you to take a dose of PRADAXA, only remove your prescribed dose of PRADAXA from your open bottle or blister package.
- Tightly close your bottle of PRADAXA right away after you take your dose.

Swallow PRADAXA capsules whole. Do not break, crush, or empty the capsule from the capsule.

If you miss a dose of PRADAXA, take it as soon as you remember. If your next dose is less than 6 hours away, skip the missed dose. Do not take two doses of PRADAXA at the same time.

- Your doctor will decide how long you should take PRADAXA. Do not stop taking PRADAXA without first talking with your doctor. Stopping PRADAXA may increase your risk of stroke.

- Do not run out of PRADAXA. Refill your prescription before you run out. If you plan to have surgery or a medical or a dental procedure, tell your doctor and dentist that you are taking PRADAXA. You may have to stop taking PRADAXA for a short time. See "What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?"
- If you take too much PRADAXA, go to the nearest hospital or emergency room or call your doctor.
- Call your doctor or healthcare provider right away if you fall or injure yourself, especially if you tell your doctor that you or your healthcare provider may need to check you.

What are the possible side effects of PRADAXA?
PRADAXA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Allergic Reactions: In some people, PRADAXA can cause symptoms of an allergic reaction, including hives, rash, and itching. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with PRADAXA:
 - chest pain or chest tightness
 - swelling of your face or tongue
 - trouble breathing or wheezing
 - feeling dizzy or faint

Common side effects of PRADAXA include:

- indigestion, upset stomach or heartburn
- stomach pain

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of PRADAXA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store PRADAXA?

- Store PRADAXA at room temperature between 20°F to 25°F (15°C to 30°C). After opening the bottle, use PRADAXA within 4 months. Safely throw away any unused PRADAXA after 4 months.

- Keep PRADAXA in the original bottle or blister package to keep it dry (moisture can damage the capsules from moisture). Do not put PRADAXA in pill boxes or pill organizers.
- Tightly close your bottle of PRADAXA right away after you take your dose.

Keep PRADAXA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about PRADAXA

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use PRADAXA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give your PRADAXA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about PRADAXA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about PRADAXA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, go to www.PRADAXA.com or call 1-800-542-6257 or (TTY) 1-800-458-9808.

What are the ingredients in PRADAXA?

Active ingredient: dapagatran-extended-release

Inactive ingredients: acacia, dibutyltin, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, talc, and tartaric acid. The capsule shell is composed of caprylic acid, FD&C Blue No. 2 (150-mg strength only), FD&C Yellow No. 6, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol, titanium dioxide, and black-oxide ink.

This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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Cats everywhere are having a hard time smelling their litter boxes

freshstep.com

Let no surface go unstenciled!

She loves the look of high-end wall coverings. He prefers the cost of latex paint. BY DEBORAH KALDERSON



Mary and Haley Julian

PERM, WISCONSIN
Our kids think there's no such thing as a blank wall.

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL for The Old House trade to see a blank wall and think "canvas." Whereas Haley Julian, who at eight months peripartum was rearing on a ladder with a paint roller in hand when her husband, Mary, happened into the kitchen and talked her down. "He keeps me grounded," says Haley.

The couple was finishing up a rash DIY redo of their 19th-century house, and Haley, who is drawn to the way things look, had hit on a way to get the drama of high-end wallpaper without throwing budget-minded Mary for a loop. After putting down a gray latex coat in a flat finish (Clark+Kensington's Obscure Cloud), Haley used white trimmings (Dutch Boy's Ultra White) and a pair of stencils to apply a pattern called Houshiang one large stencil, and a smaller one allowed her to get into tight spots (\$40 for the set; cuttingandstenciling.com). Soon she was busy on the dining room end of the peninsula, using the same stencils but applying dark over light (Obscure Cloud says Clark+Kensington's Oyster Pearl).

"We joked that our baby boy was going to come out holding a paintbrush," says Haley. No kidding: Stenciled walls and floors can now be found all over the house, from the kids' playroom to the staircase wainscot. "Anytime I have a wet roller and a dry stencil," says this mother of two, "watch out!" ■



They faked pricey wallpaper



ABOUT The pink wall is white on gray and the wall is white on gray. Haley used a stencil to get into tight spots. LEFT: Haley used a stencil to get into tight spots. LEFT: Haley used a stencil to get into tight spots.



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Get powerful protection against water damage in your choice of a clear or a colorful waterproofing stain. For beautiful, long-lasting results, all you need is Thompson's WaterSeal.

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She tracks the heat, station-style

Reader **Andrés Mondella** keeps her cool with help from an outdoor thermometer that has the look of a 19th-century railway clock.

BY MEGAN BAKER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY UNIKENIM



Andrés Mondella
WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK
It helps control her to take
water breaks while gardening.

TWO FACED CLOCKS hanging from iron brackets started appearing at British railway stations in the 1840s and became an icon of the Victorian era. Over the years, the addition of a thermometer on one side made the post- or wall-mounted clocks even more functional. **TOM** reader **Andrés Mondella** uses an one to remind her how much time she spends in her sunny backyard during the heat of the day. "And I love how an decorative look dresses up my house's exterior," she adds. Want to bring the sturdy style home? Try one of our 11 favorites—just be sure to mount it in a shady spot for the most accurate reading.

Temperature
takers with
a vintage
vibe



country look

THE OUTDOOR SHOP
Made of iron
Size 15.5"W x 15.5"H
x 3.1"D
Highlights: A rooster
bracket, a weather
vane, and a bell
complete with chain
ringer have a fun
farmhouse feel.
\$66 amzn.to/1000000



Victorian classic

CRANSTON
Made of cast iron
Size 12"W x 11.9"H x 3.9"D
Highlights: With a step of black iron
bracket and leaf top, this one is a clever
replicat of a traditional station clock.
\$50 amzn.to/1000000

retro zigzag

SUNNY

Made of Metal

Size: 12"W x 12"H x 2"D

Highlights: An aged face with an antique look railway take reads to the style's period origins. Circular inset gump up the bracket. \$70, everylook.com



curls and swirls

THE OUTDOOR SHOP

Made of Iron

Size: 12 7/8"W x 12 3/4"H x 3 1/2"D

Highlights: Upper and lower scrolls and a curved bracket project the dial well away from the wall for easy viewing. \$58, amason.com



space-saver

LUSTY LEAF

Made of Aluminum

Size: 7 1/2"W x 15 1/2"H x 4 1/2"D

Highlights: A small face and bracket feel hug the wall, making this one ideal for places with tight clearance. \$50, amason.com

graphic take

TAYLOR

Made of Aluminum

Size: 13 1/2"W x 13 1/2"H x 4 1/2"D

Highlights: Bold black numbers and a fresh white face add up to a streamlined railway look. \$47, wayfair.com



natural charm

SPYGLASS

Made of Aluminum

Size: 14 1/2"W x 21 1/2"H x 3 1/2"D

Highlights: The bracket of this upcycled style is a kind, beveled branch; a vine outlines the thermometer face. \$255, ironcast.com



ENJOY
DISCOUNTS
UP TO
15% at
TOTAL UP
TO \$100.00
OFF TOTAL

woody style

SPYGLASS

Made of Aluminum

Size: 9"W x 10 1/2"H x 6"D

Highlights: Green-painted leaves, rustic pinecones, and a leafy bow tie add texture and color to this contemporary take. \$76, wayfair.com



aged flora

THE OUTDOOR SHOP

Made of Aluminum

Size: 11 1/2"W x 12 1/2"H x 2"D

Highlights: Faded roses and leaves result in large garden illustrations. \$20, collectionsto.com



all lit up

THE OUTDOOR SHOP

Made of Iron

Size: 14 1/2"W x 14 1/2"H x 4 1/2"D

Highlights: A solar cell on the top powers a dozen LED lights that illuminate the frame for dramatic effect after the sun sets. Fanciful scrolls dress up the bracket, and too. \$78, amason.com

copper curves

SPYGLASS

Made of Steel

Size: 10 1/2"W x 12 1/2"H x 3 1/2"D

Highlights: An aged copper finish dresses up this one's classic contours and bright white face. \$82, windandweather.com



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DISCOUNTS
UP TO
15% at
TOTAL UP
TO \$100.00
OFF TOTAL



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You made these beauties by hand

Hundreds of readers entered their small-scale projects hoping to win cash and to share their creations with you. Nice work! BY HIGGAN BAKER

OFF-THE-SHELF furnishings are nice, but nothing beats a handmade piece. That's the spirit behind our "DIY It" contest. We asked readers to show us projects they built instead of bought. The entries that impressed us the most were those that used salvaged materials in unique ways—a task requiring both skill and creative vision. Here are our favorite five, all as functional as they are beautiful.

Recycled-pallet bed

Michael Lucas (CYPRESS, TEXAS)



THE PROJECT: For their fifth wedding anniversary, Michael created a handsome headboard and footboard to give his wife. Later, using the planks of discarded pallets, old boards from his neighbor's deck, and a cheap metal bed, "I wanted to keep the best up look of the wood without giving too much," he says. **THE FIFT:** Michael turned scraps into a polished piece by enclosing them in a metal frame, adding a keyhole, and ragging on a hint of color.



"DON'T
BUY IT, DIY IT!"
CONTEST
WINNERS



Salvaged-shutter-door desk

Scott & Amy (EVANSVILLE, INDIANA)

THE PROJECT: Scott and his wife, Amy, searched high and low for an affordable desk to match their cottage decor. But the closest they came was a so-so fit that cost more than \$1,000. Then Amy spotted a set of wood shutters at the local resale shop, and Scott was inspired to build his own perfect match. "I love that there's nothing else like it," he says. "I even routed the molding myself." **THE FIFT:** Scott cobbled together salvaged parts, custom trim, and off-the-shelf furniture feet to create a unified cottage-style piece.

• built from scratch

Refurbished- stereo-cabinet bar

Kaiser Walker

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA



THE PROJECT Kaiser needed a handy spot to corral cocktail gear, and she found the solution in a \$50 estate-sale stereo-cabinet. She drew up plans to turn it into a bar, and her dad did the work. "It took a while to map out, but it is just what I needed!" she says.

THE FEAT Kaiser and her dad created a stylish bar by adding mirror inserts and cross-hatch molding to the cabinet's end, and century chairs.



Repurposed headboard bench

Hannah Hartsow, TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

THE PROJECT Hannah snagged an old headboard and footboard from the thrift shop without a plan, knowing only that she loved the distressed look and the \$25 price tag. "I try to outdo ideas as much as possible," she says. It's only natural, then, that she transformed her find into a chaise longue bench. **THE FEAT** Hannah used dovetail joinery to connect the footboard ends to the headboard back and 3x4s for the seat. To get a comfortable length, she threaded stock table legs onto the legs of the bed parts.



Reclaimed barn-wood island

Corey Weber

MONTROSE, SOUTH DAKOTA

THE PROJECT "I do a lot of monkeying around with salvaged wood," says Corey. Knowing this, Corey's pal enlisted his help to build a kitchen center piece. **THE FEAT** Corey salvaged all the wood for free from local farms—that barn red was the real deal. He accommodated the countertop using planks cut from old rafters. ■



MORE SMART PROJECTS!

To see other entries in the "Don't Buy It, DIY It" contest, scan this page with the app or go to thisoldhouse.com/762063

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Meet our tightfisted heroes

From pilfering pine needles to faking flagstone, these masterful misers can teach us all a thing or two about cost-shaving shortcuts

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRUCE BOLINGER

A twist on toilet repair

Mary Cowfort
COLORADO SPRINGS,
COLORADO
When the toilet clogged,
she ran in my toilet bowl.

I replaced with the best because
a bunch of other. It works great!

What Mary Saved: \$2.05

Stone-isn't veneer

Dan Horvath
HERMANN, UTAH
Instead of using stone
veneer, I cut small
pieces of drywall

stacked them randomly, roughed up
the edges, covered them with drywall
mud, and faux painted them. Looks
like the real thing.

What Dan Saved: \$200

Ironing-board beater

Doreen Brown
CARROLLTON, OHIO
I wanted a drawer-
mounted ironing board,
but found the prices

to be ridiculous. I took an old table top
made from the dollar store, cut it in
half, and added a pair of legs so that it
would fit back onto the side of the
drawer. I removed the front legs

of the board and reused the brackets
from them to attach the back legs to
the bottom of the drawer. The front
of the board is on the top of the
drawer, which is the way a sign of an

old vintage cabinet I repaired for
my laundry room—a project that
earned me a Cheapskate honor two
years ago. I miss looking in the
my husband always says I'm so cheap that
I will build to the foundation to do it.

What Doreen Saved: \$266.79



Architectural Tupperware
Cara Mitchell SAN ANTONIO

I needed to cover a hole left by a ceiling fan, but I had
no budget. So I took a plastic bowl from the thrift store
(25 cents), cut a hole in the middle, spray-painted it
black to match my light fixture, slipped the fixture's
chain through it, and used pinches of putty to stick it
to the ceiling to make a "no-duller." Looks fabulous!

What Cara Saved: \$140.24

Mulch monitor

Carolyn Anne
PORTSMOUTH,
VIRGINIA
Instead of buying
mulch, I got free pine
needles when my neighbors put them
out on trash day. I don't like to risk, so
I have to work up the nerve to sneak
over and grab them.

What Carolyn Saved: \$2.50 per bag

Custom-cut curtains

Amberly Larkins
SPRINGFIELD,
MISSOURI
If you want to do an
older cheapskate over

there, instead of buying two curtains
for every window, I always cut my
curtains in half and adjust them for
the windows. Most curtains panels are
around 50 inches wide, so even when
they reach in half you can still cover
a typical window which is 3 or 4 feet
wide. And if your windows are short,
you can cut curtains in half horizontally.

What Amberly Saved: \$250

Wallpaper the cabinets

Kearse McLean
METairie, LOUISIANA
I wanted new kitchen
cabinets, but my old ones were so
1980s style. After interviewing
to repair faces or replace the doors, I
decided the cost was too high, and
I would just make do. But after seeing
textured wallpaper in a big box store
one day, I got the idea to wallpaper
them. I covered the door fronts—and
the drawers from the top—with a faded
boarded pattern wallpaper, then
painted it. Now I have a "new" kitchen

and spends less than \$100 on wallpaper
glue and paint. The wallpapered
cabinets have held up to everyday use
now for the past six months, and they
look great! Easily reusable too.

What Kearse Saved: \$3,325



Exact replicas
Andrew Dyk
BROOKFIELD,
WISCONSIN

For a matching look, I
terminated photocopies
of a ceramic tile for the tile border
above the bathtub. Guests think it's
a larger scale of the same decorative
tile, and I haven't leaked up yet!

What Andrew Saved: \$320



Lint for flint
Katherine Piper CAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Go ahead and laugh—I stuff all my dryer lint into empty toilet-
tube tubes and use them as fire-starters! Nothing gets
wasted in my home! **What Katherine Saved:** \$20 a season

and spends less than \$100 on wallpaper
glue and paint. The wallpapered
cabinets have held up to everyday use
now for the past six months, and they
look great! Easily reusable too.

Two-flagstone path

Janece B.
JACKSONVILLE,
FLORIDA
I wanted a walkway
and liked the flagstone
look. I saw a work crew breaking up a
concrete sidewalk in my neighbor's
yard and got them to drop off a load of
broken pieces in my driveway. I cut the

"tiles" and kneaded mortar between
them to make a winding path up the
slope of my yard and a small patio. My only
cost was for the mortar mix. (Oh, and
the cost of a bowl for my back.) It's like
architecture made through a garden of
blooming flowers and trees.

What Janece Saved: \$458

Exact replicas

Andrew Dyk
BROOKFIELD,
WISCONSIN
For a matching look, I
terminated photocopies
of a ceramic tile for the tile border
above the bathtub. Guests think it's
a larger scale of the same decorative
tile, and I haven't leaked up yet!



Exact replicas
Andrew Dyk
BROOKFIELD,
WISCONSIN

For a matching look, I
terminated photocopies
of a ceramic tile for the tile border
above the bathtub. Guests think it's
a larger scale of the same decorative
tile, and I haven't leaked up yet!

What Andrew Saved: \$320

Magio-trick cabinet

**Mike and
Pat Erving**
MANASQUAN,
NEW JERSEY

We got a new fish-screen, but it didn't work with the old cabinet. It was too big for the TV slot and it would be too high sitting on top. My husband, Mike, chopped the top and bottom off the old cabinet and put those parts together, and now the TV sits on top, and it's the perfect height. He cut the door down, hid the glass

cut down to size, and covered the seams with molding. You cannot tell at all, and it cost only \$6 to get the glass cut and \$8 for the molding. His a very handy What the Ervings Saved: \$636

Shop-Vac planter

Juanita Zick
BARABOO,
WISCONSIN

I had the bottom to an old 5-gallon Shop-Vac lying around, so I added a 1-inch layer of stones, filled it with dirt, and planted my flowers in it. I can easily push it around my patio on its wheels, and it already had a drain for when you used the vacuum to suck up water. So I took off the plug and running planter has drainage. It works really wonderfully. What Sharon Saved: \$30

Countertop lift

Juanita Zick
BARABOO,
WISCONSIN

The cabinets in our master bathroom are only 29 inches high, and I wanted taller ones, but we couldn't afford new cabinets. Instead, my husband and I pulled off the countertop, flipped up the existing cabinets by 36 inches, and replaced the countertop. We found Teakwood trim at The Home Depot that was very close to the cabinet color and attached it with finishing nails around the new framing. Looks like it has always been there! We spent a total of \$35 and had it done in four hours. What the Mecklers Saved: \$450

Crowning achievement

Russell Stephens
JUNGER TEXAS

There was no such thing as an equine corner in my 1895 house, so I went some time to install crown molding. We had no choice [with our skill level] but to use corner blocks. After a lot of searching and price escalation with all the contractors we needed, I decided to make my own from 2x4s. We think they do the trick. What Russell Saved: \$344

Duster-buster

Jodie Richard
SANDY SPRINGS,
GEORGIA

I have used fabric softener sheets because they make great dust cloths—especially for ceiling tile shades and window blinds. What Susan Saved: \$3.25 per microfiber dust cloth

Ads for 11y pads

Robert Reclor
FORTUNA,
CALIFORNIA

While researching materials for a water feature in my yard, I was stunned by the price of commercial pond liners. The 45-lb. roll, which I found was large 15-by-30-foot recycled advertising billboards—shades of PVC that would work perfectly. I purchased one for \$70, including shipping. Compare that with \$200 for traditional liner material. What Robert Saved: \$130

More reasons to love bacon

Joyce drawling
NORTH APOLLO,
PENNSYLVANIA

I always use the plastic inserts that come in packages of bacon. They make great paint edgers. Of course, you have to rinse them off first. What Joyce Saved: \$2.96 ■



Drink a beer, install a screw

Arlene Davis POCATELLO, IDAHO

We were putting the handles on new kitchen cabinets, but the screws that came with them were just a bit too long. We were going to go buy all new screws, or washers to take up the slack, when we came up with this idea: We found that the tabs on our beer cans were the perfect thickness. It may seem a little too redneck for some people, but for us it is a reminder of the fun we had remodeling the kitchen. What Arlene Saved: \$3.58 for a pack of washers (and a trip to the store)



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She sharpened her DIY skills

One lucky reader teamed up with This Old House's general contractor on an eye-catching way to hang an address sign
BY JOHN CARY • PHOTOGRAPHY BY LANSINGER



Lisa Ganesano
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
"There's just say I learned how to
use a drill from the expert!"

SEEK, YOU COULD mount your house's number next to the front door and call it a day. But to us, a handsome address plaque deserves a display of its own, and reader Lisa Ganesano of Newton, Massachusetts, agrees. When Lisa told us she'd like to brush up on some real basics, we paired her with T.O.H. general contractor Tom Silva to put together a decorative signpost that could stand proud in any yard. This piece uses off-the-shelf materials and requires just a few simple cuts, plan glue and screws. "It looks harder to build than it actually was," says Lisa. Perhaps best of all, the hollow pedestal post simply slips over a pressure-treated 4x4 that's bolted to a twist-in ground screw, so it doesn't need a concrete base. Read on to see how Tom and Lisa put it all together.

Shop: Maple Polymer Address Post \$60; twist-in Centerline Double Address Plaque \$65; Silvaco.com 3/4-in. brackets, 1/2-in. wood screws; silvaco.com Standing Premier Self-Feed, 3/4-in. eye-bolt; silvaco.com Removable 4x4x6 No-Dig Ground Screw \$30; silvaco.com



make an
address—
please
post

09513215
TIME 4 hours
DIFFICULTY Easy A novice
DIYer can handle the
simple cuts and assembly

HOW IT'S DONE

Build an address-plaque post

We used a 6-inch-square hollow prefab post. To make the arm for the plaque, we profiled out a corbel with 1½" cellular PVC board. Screws and a strong-bonding polyurethane adhesive hold the pieces together. Be sure to call 811 before twisting in the ground screw to make sure you won't hit any underground utilities. And after you slip the finished assembly over the pressure-treated 4×4 post, drive a 2½-inch screw through the top of the corbel assembly and into the 4×4 to secure things firmly.



- 1) Measure the corbel and mark a cut on the PVC board. Measure the short and long sides of your corbel. Add ½ inch to the short dimension, and mark this length on the PVC board. Add 1½ inches to the corbel's long dimension, write the length down for use in Step 2.



- 5) Prep the assembly for hanging the plaque. Set the assembly with the long board facing up, and center the plaque using Tom's method. Measure the distance from the right to right hole to the board's left edge, then measure from the left hole to the right edge and adjust the plaque until the measurements are equal. Mark the hole locations and drill pilot holes for screw eyes. Twist in the screw eyes by hand.

- 3) Cut the short and long boards.

Place the board against the miter saw's fence with the marked side facing out and the marked length on the left. Set the saw blade at a 30-degree left bevel and cut at the mark, as shown. On the remaining board, measure from the bevel's short point and mark the length you wrote down in Step 1. Make a straight cut at this mark. You'll now have two boards, one long and one short, each beveled at one end.



- 6) Drill counterbore into the assembly. Using a ½-inch counterbore bit, drill three evenly spaced counterbores about ¼ inch deep on each side of the short board, for attaching the corbel assembly to the mailbox post.

- 3) Build an L-shape from the boards. Lay the boards on edge in an L shape on your work surface, with the square end of the short board butted against the face of the long board, as shown. Make sure that the bevels face the inside of the L. Drill pilot holes, and fasten the long board to the short board using three 2½-inch exterior screws.



- 7) Fasten the assembly to the post. Dry-fit the assembly on the post and mark where its top and bottom edges will fall. Set the assembly aside, and use a caulking gun to apply adhesive between the marks. Place the assembly within the marks on the post and press into place. Drive ½-inch screws through the counterbores in the assembly and into the side of the post.

- 4) Create the corbel assembly. Center the corbel on the L, and trace along the corbel's edges so that you know where to apply adhesive. Remove the corbel. Using a caulking gun, run a heavy bead of polyurethane construction adhesive inside the lines you traced on the boards. Then set the corbel in place, nesting it into the adhesive for good coverage.



- 8) Finish and install the post. Use adhesive to affix the final to the post top. Cover the screw heads and fill the seams with paintable caulk. Coat the piece with acrylic paint. Pick a safe spot to install the post, and insert it into the ground screw and the 2x4 post. Use the 2x4 post to install the post. Finally, slide the finished post over the 4×4 and hang the plaque with 5 hooks.

GET ALL THE DETAILS
For a full list of products and materials to build this project, visit a Habitat or call phone to scan this page with the Habitat app or go to thisishouse.com/jac013

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Secrets of speedy remodelers

What does it take to finish a project in under a month? We asked three DIYers who tackled fast-track renovations for their best time-saving tips

deadline pressure made them do it



8 DAYS

After planning it in the back of his mind for more than a decade, he finished a top-to-bottom renovation of his dining room while his wife was away on vacation.

Burke Lee Whitford
LINDSAY, ONTARIO, CANADA

> **Relativize your timeline** before you start. "I never begin a project until I have a clear vision of what the finished result will look like, and the dining room was no different. We'd lived in our house for 34 years before I redid this room, so I had plenty of time to figure the math, the design and to choose materials and paint colors."

> **Get buy-in from your family.** "Before making any final decisions, I talked with my wife about all the ideas I was considering. I wanted to make sure she was happy with the direction we were going in so that I wouldn't have to go back and change anything later, which would have been a huge waste of time and money. Plus, I'd promised her that I'd give her the most contained and fresh



before

when a short time frame—which is why I backpedaled when she was out of town."

> **Buy materials while you see the right stuff.** "The dining room wasn't at the top of my mind when I was working on

the rest of the house. But if I saw something that I thought would work there and it was on sale, I bought it. Having some materials on hand helped me fine-tune the design bit by bit. Some of the moldings and the paint were purchased



BEFORE Burke wanted more period details in his dining room. **TOP and ABOVE** The ceiling dome draws the eye upward, corner blocks shield molding, and a fringe of Lusterline trim is unique to tradition from wall to ceiling.

12 years ago, other things I bought more recently."

> **Measure at least twice.** "This is obvious, but you'll move faster and make fewer mistakes when your dimensions are accurate. I recorded the numbers in a project notebook and referred to it when I needed to make out lists and calculate how much paint I needed."

> **Get help with the tricky parts.** "Putting up the island was tough—the stuff is dense and brittle, and it tears easily. Thankfully, I was able to recruit one of my son's friends to help me with it. Together we could lift longer sections into place, so I was able to cut it down to the length of each wall without any seams."

> **Invest in labor-saving tools.** "My portable mini saw, power paint sprayer, and nail gun saved me hours. I could make cuts right in the living room instead of having to run downstairs to my basement workshop every time the mowing before installation meant that they all got a nice even coat. And a nail gun is easier to use than a hammer when you're making something heavy overhead."



21 DAYS

A plumbing disaster ruined her kitchen a few days before Thanksgiving, but she got her cook space up and running in time to host a Christmas meal for visiting family.

Katie/Punk, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA



before

> **Leave no grooves you're in over your head.** "When our kitchen flooded, my husband and I were working full-time and our daughter was only 2 years old. We'd always looked at remodels on our own, but we couldn't get by on takeout for months on end. So I hired a pro for the demolition and installation while I designed the layout and bought most of the fixtures and

finishes. It was the best decision for us."

> **Start with the most important feature.** "I looked for cabinets first, knowing that they'd dictate the kitchen's layout. I found them at a secondhand shop along with a stainless-steel dishwasher that looked like new. With those decisions, I sketched a dozen versions of the layout on graph paper until I

liked the result. Then the rest of the design took shape."

> **Don't get hung up on minor details.** "I had no time to fret over any, the perfect sink pulls. I found some that I loved. I deemed them good enough and moved on to the next thing, knowing that I could swap them out later. When you're on a deadline, a quick decision is often the best one."

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30 DAYS

He put his boring, builder-grade bathroom and gave it a completely different look, including new fixtures, just before his housewarming moved in.

Matthew Post | BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

Take care from other projects you've done. "I'd already remodeled the other bathroom in my house, so to streamline decisions I went with the same color scheme and overall look. I even used the same products in some cases since I knew I liked them already."

Keep it bathed in the same spots. "I didn't move the sink, tub or toilet, so no plumbing was necessary. That saved me a ton of money as well as time. The bathroom isn't huge and fortunately the only thing I made good use of every week and every day. So keeping the floor plan the same didn't feel like a compromise."

Be likely on stock products. When I needed my first bathroom, I custom-ordered a few things. But I didn't have the luxury of time with this renovation. Nearly everything came from Home Depot, and I bought curtains and big bag tiles. That meant I had to forgo acid-wash tub, but there was a big upside to this: I found an enamel-coated steel tub that looked very similar to the one I wanted but cost much less.

Maintain a master to-do list. "It's easy to lose sight of the big picture when you're immersed in all the day-to-day details, so you really need to write everything down if you're trying to keep track of a project. Before I started this one, I typed up a long list of everything I wanted to do, even stuff I thought it would involve. From shopping for fixtures to picking up materials to installation. Every day before leaving, I'd open the list on my computer and delete tasks that were done. Then I added new ones that came up the day before. Finally, I chose what to do that day based on my available time, materials, and energy. It was gratifying to see



the list get shorter and shorter as I reached the finish line."

Don't fill your days with napping. "Aside from going every day job and sleeping and eating, this project

was pretty much the only thing I did during the month that I had to complete. I took short breaks here and there, but I didn't make time for social plans or cook fancy meals or anything like that. Scaling back to the extent we

BEFORE Prior to the renovation, every surface in Matthew's bathroom was beige LVT. His upgrade included a new stone-look tile, a new vanity, a new cabinet, and a new toilet. Both of which he built by hand.



helped me focus and conserving energy for making decisions and getting around the inevitable DIY roadblocks that came up. It's the only thing I did during the month that I had to complete. I took short breaks here and there, but I didn't make time for social plans or cook fancy meals or anything like that. Scaling back to the extent we



HOW THE PROS SAVE TIME

TOH TV general contractor Tom Silva remodels entire houses for the television show *Home Repair with Tom Silva*. What's his secret?

There's no old contractor saying, "The money is in the corners. That's true for time, too," says Tom. The pros have materials and finishers you don't have to worry about. The quicker your project will go. Don't let yourself get off on delays by expecting to hang wallpaper and install built-up crown molding on a tight track schedule—especially if you're a novice DIYer. Another big time saver: priming and painting baseboards and trim before putting them up, as Garth did in his living room (page 62). "Cutting and setting another stage sets up the clock," Tom says. "You can pay the pros or newbies and give them two coats of paint in one go." Once installed, all they need are touch-ups.

Having a spare drill driver on hand is crucial in any installation project requires some "Use one drill for making pilot holes and the other for driving screws so that you don't wear it out changing out bits," says Tom. When you're really under the gun, look for quick-drying formulas for adhesives, caulks, and fillers. There are drywall patching compounds, for instance, that are ready for sanding and painting in just 15 minutes versus the more typical 12 to 24 hours. "But you've got to be comfortable working fast because their open time is short," he adds. Finally, Tom will send the old school advice on measuring at least twice before cutting. "Board stretchers don't come cheap." The pros. —GEOFFREY SHOOKMAN

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He wanted a new backyard classic

We asked TOH fans about picnic tables, and they asked us for an update to the park-variety A-frame. Here's our answer

BY JOHN CASHY • PHOTOGRAPHS BY KYLEN SMITH

How to
build
a picnic table
with style

COST \$385

TIME 10 hours over two days

DIFFICULTY Moderate

Cutting and joinery are
straightforward, but it's a
big, multi-part project



Jean-Guy Marion

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA
The old woodhouse made a
serious redesign!

LOTS OF YOU, including reader Lana Helms, told us that every family should own a wood picnic table. But just not any table. Reader Jean-Guy Marion backs his reader the desk because "it's not the prettiest thing to look at." This rustic-and-stylish design from *The Old House* contributor Christopher Benda, owner of *Forest*, in Brooklyn, New York, should

resolve Jean-Guy's aesthetic quibbles. "We hope it works for reader Lisa Emery, who says, 'We're searching for a table that is welcoming and functional. One ready for corn on the cob, potato salad, apple pie, and the 11th of July.' Ready w-h-a-y you are—turn the page and get started. But save room for one worth it: dish, a matching cedar stool.

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4 MAKE THE TABLETOP

A) Prep the slats. Measure the openings in the tabletop frame, rabbit to rabbit, and cut the slats to length. Clamp four of the eight slats together edge to edge then clamp the assembly to your work surface, as shown. Use the router to cut a 1/4-inch wide by 1/4-inch deep rabbet across the ends of the slats. Rabbet the other end of the assembly as well as the other set of slats.

B) Attach the slats. In order to hide the fasteners, lay the slats rabbit side up on your work surface, then nestle the frame, spread down on top of them. You may need to place some pieces under the slats to keep them pressed against the frame. Use spacers (see used dowels) to keep the slats a uniform distance apart. Counterbore two pilot holes through each slat and into the joint at the ends of each slat. Secure the slats with 10-inch-long or stainless-steel screws.

5 MAKE THE LEGS

A) Lay out the baseboards and feet. On the top edge of a blank, find the center point and mark 2 1/2 inches out, to each side. Then measure 2 inches up from the bottom corners of the blank. Use an 18-inch tape to mark diagonal cutlines between the top points and the side points, as shown.

B) Make the cuts. Position the piece with one corner of the table. Clamp a straightedge in place, and use a circular saw to cut along the line, as shown. Cut along the other line. Use the piece as a template to mark the other seven blanks, and cut those, too.

C) Attach the feet and baseboards. Clamp two leg boards around a 1/4-spacer, then clamp a foot to the assembly. Counterbore pilot holes at the foot and attach it with deck screws. Attach the other foot, and attach the tabletop brackets at the top of the legs.



How to Outsmart a Millionaire

Only the "Robin Hood of Watchmakers" can steal the spotlight from a luxury legend for under \$200!

I was looking for trouble. I sat in a cafe, sipping my espresso and sipping the quiet. Then it got noisy. My neighbor rolled up in a roaring high-performance Italian sports car, cranking around like his \$54,000 watch made it okay for him to be late. That's when I decided to roll up my sleeves and teach him a lesson.

"Nice watch," I said, pointing to his and holding up mine. His modelled like we belonged to the same club. We did, but he totally paid 100 times more for his membership. English brought shore his five-figure purchase, a luxury timepiece from the class of high-proof cognac. I told him that mine was the *Stauer Corso*, a 25-jewel automatic classic now available for only \$179. And just like that, the man was at a loss for words.

Think of *Stauer* as the "Robin Hood of Watchmakers." We believe everyone deserves a watch of unsurpassing precision, impressive performance and the most elegant styling. You deserve a watch that can hold its own against the luxury clocks for a fraction of the price. You'll find the quality is seen as you put it on your wrist. This is an expertly-crafted time machine...not a toy for amateurs.

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TIP To avoid special ordering a $\frac{3}{4}$ "x10 for the stretcher, you can glue and clamp two 6-inch wide boards edge to edge and rip them down to width with a circular saw.

6 FORM THE BASE

A) Join the leg assemblies. Stand the leg assemblies upside down on your work surface. Insert the stretcher between the legs, position it against the tabletop brackets and fasten with the legs of each end.
B) Secure the stretchers. Countersink pilot holes through the legs and into the stretchers. Then secure it with deck screws, as shown.



7 ATTACH THE TABLETOP

A) Find the location. Lay the tabletop facedown on your work surface and stand the base upside down on top of it. Using a combination square, measure from all four edges of the tabletop to center the base.
B) Trace countersink holes. Wrap a piece of tape around a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch twist bit 2½ inches from the tip. To mark the depth, drill one countersink hole 1½ inches from the ends of each of the eight brackets, as shown, to hide the screwhead. Put a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch twist bit at your drill and make a pilot hole through the belly of each countersink hole and into the table. Drive a deck screw through each countersink hole into the tabletop.
C) Attach the foot pads. Use your drill to countersink pilot holes for the foot pads and secure them with deck screws, as shown. Have a friend help you set the table upright on the ground, and you're ready to build the benches! Go to thefirsthouse.com/yj2013 for step-by-step instructions. ■



The All-American Cottage

Our first-ever showcase home with Southern Living celebrates the ingenuity and quality craftsmanship of products made in the U.S.A.



Inspired by the growing movement to bring manufacturing back home from overseas, The Old House and Southern Living joined forces with custom homebuilder Tom Dillard to construct an All-American Cottage in the Greenville, South Carolina community of Verdus. If every builder used just 5% more American-made products, hundreds of thousands of jobs would be added to the U.S. economy. It's a worthy goal and our quintessential cottage-style home proves it's achievable with 90% of the materials sourced right here in the United States.



MEET THE BUILDER
Tom Dillard
Greenville, South Carolina
@dillard-designs.com

What Inspired Me to Build All-American

"After almost a decade in the custom homebuilding industry, I have seen a decline in U.S. construction jobs—a lot of it due to the use of materials and products made somewhere other than the United States. When I saw the news coverage on Hurricane Katrina, for Andrew's personal and his commitment to build a home with materials made in the U.S.A., I was inspired to try it myself."

For more information or to see the plans for this home, visit SouthernLiving.com/PH2013.



THE ALL-AMERICAN COTTAGE



AUTHENTIC AMERICAN COLORS

Throughout the Cottage, designer Susan Peace-Herman selected soothing earth tones from 1780s-inspired and **Wellborn® Paint's** National Trust for Historical Preservation collection, an exclusive palette of documented historic colors. However, out on the porch you'll find the exterior painted a surprising sky blue, in keeping with Southern tradition. Some believe it wards off everything from evil spirits to flying insects. But others simply find it adds an extension of the sky above. **Wellborn® 8009-50**, Deep Sky Blue.

TRADITIONAL FARMHOUSE KITCHEN WITH A TWIST

Antiques Village sold many in **Clatsop Pewter** to **Wellborn®** **Chestnut**, but proved to be a perfect match for the handy gray palette of the kitchen. We paired it with quality vinyl and honed to perfection Virginia Mill granite countertops and sleek made in the U.S.A. appliances by **Quora**.

FINISHING TOUCHES

The modern American blacksmiths at **Hobbsmith Forge** crafted a trio of wrought-iron and blown-glass pendant lights for added visual interest and task lighting above the island.



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Chestnut



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THE 2013
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CONTEST
GRAND-PRIZE
WINNERS*

The Simpsons

SAVING GRACE

BY STEPHANIE
SIMPSON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
USA REMODEL

STYLING BY
MICHELLE OREGO

With almost nothing but blind faith—and hard work—the Simpson family saved a sadly neglected community landmark and coaxed it back from the brink of foreclosure to create a vibrant home

**They won \$25,000 and a 2013 GMC Sierra!*



Homenet's Stephanie and Dustin Simpson, with the help of twins Ethan and Ella, 12, jumped the bid a dozen subcontracts and furnished it with salvaged finds, including the kitchen cabinet's appliances and schoolhouse light. Their home, built in 1962, was originally like a church (OPPOSITE, 104)

We first came to Idaho to visit my brother and liked it so much, we spent the entire 14-hour drive home trying to figure out how to move there too. Our twins, Ethan and Ella, were 3 years old, and the little town of Eagle seemed like the perfect place not only to raise a family but also to feel like part of a community. As my husband, Dustin, and I talked, we reached that if we sold our place in San Diego, we might be able to build a house in Eagle from scratch. We were lucky enough to be able to do that, and everything was going along smoothly until the recession hit and we lost everything, including our new dream house. That was three years ago.

We were trying to figure out where to go and what to do when Dustin comes home one day saying he'd overheard the vacant day-care center with a historical plaque and a For Sale sign out front. First, here I tell him he has to be building. He says let's just go take a look. We have an agent show us the place, and the first thing we see inside the door is a bunch of dead mice. Next I notice the kitchen has no fridge or stove. The rooms are bare, and there are just doors of them downstairs, plus a funky bathroom hanging off one side, outfitted with a tiny toilet and two tiny sinks for children.

No garage, no closets, no master suite.

The plaque said the place was established as a church



and a school in 1912. Later, classrooms and living quarters for nuns were added and the original chapel divided up to create a six rooms. In the 1990s a day-care center moved in, but by the time we saw the place, it had been empty—since inside—for months. The agent told us it was three weeks away from foreclosure. That means one of Eagle's favorite landmarks, a nearly century-old building on the National Register of Historic Places, would sit and rot.

I told Dustin we had to save it. We'd do some creative thinking about how to turn classrooms into living space, arranged some creative financing that allowed us to make over the mortgage, and broke the news to the kids. We were moving into an old church!

We arrived with no money, so we decided to fix it up as we went along and pay cash for everything. We had learned our lesson. In fact, you might say we saved the church, and it saved us.

Luckily, the kids saw it as a big adventure—and it was! Picture the first floor with bent-up vinyl tile and gross carpeting, back years with a distinctly non-horizontal

ABOVE: After tearing out the kitchen ceiling, Stephanie and Dustin decided to leave the Douglas fir beams exposed. Dustin built the walk-in pantry and together they hands and knees—the couple patterned clay to create the checkerboard pattern “TOP RIGHT.” Stephanie found photos of their house at the local museum and hung ropes in the new foyer, which she finished with paint and glass “RIGHT.” The hall tree is a family heirloom with a wingtip



BELOW The family's entrepreneur buddy is a future not built, as is a historical place that dates the late, shored-up addition on the right of the hall tower to sometime around 1900



SEE MUCH MORE
To watch the video tour of this house or to see photo galleries of the finished house, visit this page at theidahoconnection.com/journal



del, and as upstairs bedrooms, bath, and kitchenette, and imagine trying to turn all that into a home. The place looked so empty and worn, it was hard to imagine it full of life. But at one end of the rec room sat a stage, just big enough for our puns and a few singers. Our family loves music, and the thought of having people perform here kept us going.

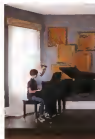
The first step was making the place habitable, which got off to a wacky start. The guy we hired to clean out the septic tank said he couldn't do it—too many tree roots. So there we all are, standing around waiting to hear what he wants to do about it, and he tells the story of another guy who had the same problem and how that guy got down into the tank with a chainsaw and cut out the roots. Then there was a long silence as he looked right at Dustin.

The kids got a real kick out of seeing Dad up with garbage bags and duct tape, and down into the Pit of Despair he went, armed with a reciprocating saw and a 12-inch blade. Tobias helped the whole time, raising and lowering a bucket as Dustin filled it with root balls. Talk about heroic!

To clear space for all the work we had to do made, we shoved our boxes and furniture into our classrooms,

OPPOSITE After opening up the first floor for better flow, Dustin and Stephanie added a pair of salvaged doors that lead to the family room and finished the living room with a reclaimed pine. **ABOVE** The view from Dustin's dorm takes in burlesq curtains made by Stephanie and has coffee table by Dustin, who collected the table to furnish the wood for a dorm room table. **RIGHT** Either Dustin or Stephanie will have coffee table by Dustin, who collected the table to furnish the wood for a dorm room table.

RIGHT Either Dustin or Stephanie will have coffee table by Dustin, who collected the table to furnish the wood for a dorm room table.





good-bye, ch/wacy!
hello, laundry closet



nearly 100 people. Making the rest of the house guest-ready came later.

→ **SCHEDULE BREAKS.** "I can go a hard-core for days on end, but I've learned how important it is to walk away and take a break before you get depleted," Dustin says. "When you're ready to go back, you'll find you have more energy and interest."

→ **ENGAGE THE KIDS.** "We were lucky because ours were old enough to take some pride in what we were doing," Dustin says. "Without them, we would never have been able to cut away all that plaster and take the doors to our family room, which were salvaged during renovation of the state capital." Dustin says. He adds: "It's like Facebook. If you check it out regularly, in the end you'll have them because all the new postings are right at the top."

→ **GO TO CRAIGSLIST EVERY DAY.** "We learned to look for things we want. I even looking for—like our church pews and the doors to our family room, which were salvaged during renovation of the state capital." Dustin says. He adds: "It's like Facebook. If you check it out regularly, in the end you'll have them because all the new postings are right at the top."

→ **SET UP A SANCTUARY.** "As soon as we could, we turned the chapel room—now our living room—into a place where the kids could do homework and we could have meals," says Stephanie. "You need to have one spot everyone can escape to." Less than a year after moving in, the family was able to host a Christmas party in the chapel room with live music and

rabble master
Ethyn at work!



RIGHT: A former Harrison, Ore. family room lacked storage. Stephanie oversupplied with cubbies and bins from Costco. BELOW: Dustin furthered the cause by using the hallway that leads to the master bedroom—another former classroom—with generous built-ins.



which became the junk room. Another classroom became our bedroom, and the kids took over the upstairs, including the top bell tower. Later we'd create a second bedroom and a new bath up there. But a bigger priority was the kitchen, which turned out to be our toughest project and also our proudest achievement.

The old kitchen was more inside-some than cooking space, with big windows looking out over pines and corn fields and not much else. It was drafty, so we tore out the ceiling and took the window wall down to the studs to add insulation. That was easy, right, and when the dust settled, there were beamed Douglas fir ceiling beams, which we decided to leave exposed. Dustin the dust mucker got out every nail he could to build my dream pantry, not to mention a master bath and a small mudroom in the footprint of the old kitchen. How low organized, homes, and bright the space feels.

A home was beginning to take shape. The old kitchen floor was kind of a nightmare: dripped vinyl tile on top of plywood on top of more tile held in place by what looked like black goo. Using an iron rod piece of aluminum rod, I was able to soften the adhesive and pry up the tiles one by one. My strategy was then attacking the floor with a sander, which purred up so quickly, I made a panicked call to a flooring company, and the guy there immediately says, "Whatever you do, do not sand"—not without a hazmat suit, anyway, so I was probably breathing asbestos. Yikes. We quickly covered up the adhesive with plastic and sanded new pine flooring right over it.

BELOW: Dustin built the master bath in space annexed from the original kitchen and finished it with beadboard and a DIY vanity.



By this time we were real Craigslist regulars. That's where we gleaned "new" cabinets and appliances—including a KitchenAid fridge we could no longer have brought new—along with a shelf system for a closet that Dustin built in the family room, a \$15 glass chandelier for the master bath, and a merry cat-stool tub, which we sanded down and painted and added three toes.

The kitchen is our favorite gathering place, but I'm pleased to say we also have a living room worthy of our guests. Its finishing touch was a pew salvaged from a church renovation in downtown Boise. We varnished it, stained it, and positioned it facing the stage.

Plenty of things remain to be done, from finishing the bedrooms to building a basement laundry room. But it helps that these days we've learned to live with each loss. The kids even helped us organize yard sales so we could refinance items back into the stream of highly used goods that has nourished us so well.

Sometimes we do miss the house we built from scratch. But we have loved fixing up this old schoolhouse, and we love our simpler life right the way it is now. ■



Before

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The new U-shape layout gives Jenn Rodgers and son Wyatt more brooding room; the tiny kitchen got a gut renovation; Jenn hand-placed oil-burner wood to make the open shelves.

BEST REDO KITCHEN

Jenn and Kevin Rodgers DULUTH, MINNESOTA

WHAT THEY DID Revamped the dated and claustrophobic kitchen in Jenn's Victorian-era childhood home to better suit their new—and quickly growing—family.



THEIR STORY: I never thought I'd move back to the house I grew up in. But after living in Brooklyn, New York, with a 1-year-old, my husband, Kevin, and I knew we needed a place with more room. The 1904 Folk Victorian house I grew up in had been empty for six years—my parents had moved out but weren't quite ready to let it go. Selling it to us was a win-win.

So we moved to Minnesota and settled in with my parents in their new place while we finished what we expected to be minor upgrades—replacing cabinets, refinishing floors, installing a new hot/cold dish. But we found a nasty surprise mold, caused by a leaky ceiling. To be safe, we decided to take everything down to the studs. Then, another surprise: I was pregnant! Suddenly, we had a deadline.

Since it was a small kitchen, we wanted to make it feel brighter and more open. We plotted out an efficient U-shape layout for our new IKEA cabinets, appliances, and butcher block, all of which we installed ourselves. In fact, the only work we hired out was the plumbing, the floor refinishing, and the installation of the marble countertops. The stove went where the sink had been, and we

SEE MUCH MORE

To watch a video tour of each of the winning projects or to see photos galleries of the finalists, use the app or go to thisoldhouse.com/joc2013



2013
WINNERS

ONE-ROOM WONDERS

Let's hear it for the best of the rest: Out of thousands of entries, we selected these five families as \$1,000 winners for their marvelous makeovers

reconfigured the windows along that wall to bring in light from both corners. We installed French doors to the deck and closed off a nook by putting in a pocket door to form a pantry. Even though we didn't technically change the size of the kitchen, it felt much bigger.

We moved into the house in the fall, and there was only one problem: Our new 36-inch range was defective, which meant it had a beautiful new kitchen but was cooking on a hot plate. Why about the reliability of a replacement, I spent the next few weeks searching Craigslist and found a beautiful Fisher & Paykel for just \$800. I immediately contacted the store and told him our story. But when it came time for our pickup, the terms had changed—in our favor. He wanted to give it to us! We couldn't believe our luck. With the arrival of our second son, Selas, only two months away, it was a welcome boost.

Looking back, I realize it must have been hard for my parents to watch us overhaul the heart of the house where they'd spent 30 years, but they love how it turned out. The whole house has a new life—but at the end of the day, the stairs still squeak in all the same spots.



ABOVE: A pocket door closes off the pantry without obstructing floor space. Despite an butcher block along the sides of the original cabinets, costs a wonderful effect. **LEFT:** Cabinets built to our sound the fridge provides additional storage and conceal the existing sink.



BEST REDO BATH

Jeff and
Laura Tarro

ST CHARLES
ILLINOIS

WHAT THEY DID: Turned a plumbing mishap into an excuse to update—and add precious inches to—their cozy half bath.



THEIR STORY: It's funny the habits you develop when you take on an old house: The downstairs powder

room in our Greek Revival farmhouse had a cracked and leaky wall-hung sink as old as the original plumbing. I shut off the supply lines to stop the drip when we moved in, and before long, it became perfectly normal for us to wash our hands in the kitchen sink.

One day, Laura and I stumbled upon an ideal replacement at IKEA—a narrow oval designed so tight that it wouldn't eat up valuable floor space in the 30-square-foot room. I had a few days off from my job as a firefighter, so, after three years of living with a broken sink, I promised Laura I would finally sweep it out.

To change the room, I had to remove the cast-iron waste pipe it shared with the tiny vintage toilet. But when I cutched off the old pipe, the force shattered the toilet's base. In an instant, our second bath had no functioning fixtures, and I felt like we might as well quit it.

I demolished the room down to the framing, which turned out to be Douglas fir 4-in.-6, and carved out an alcove under the stairs to fit a modern toilet. We bought back a chair for the footprint by flipping the swing of the door and installing a sliding seat beneath the tile so that we could tear out the bulky radiator. It took two years, but we finally have a finished bathroom with the period style we love.



ABOVE: To save money, Jeff Tarro turned Douglas fir floorboards into wainscoting, and Laura thought of modernizing the tile sheets using accent and hex plus. **BEFORE:** The broken sink that sparked the whole project was ancient.





BEFORE Early vinyl siding and a second-chick yard didn't deter the Wykys from seeing this house as potential. LEFT: Margee chose the period-perfect color scheme. **ABOVE**: The front porch (below) includes stripping and restoring the original wood columns.



among many other things. She's the one who drives things forward. I'm basically just the hand help.

Restoring the facade took an year. Once I'd pulled off the vinyl siding, I had to replace sills and clapboards that had rotted away. Most of the decorative trim had been cut off, so we visited homes done by the same builder, and I did my best to replicate their details. Before painting, I used a bar gun to strip the old clapboards, then sanded everything down—all three stories—with a 5-inch rotary sander. (It's a great way to lose weight, by the way.) Last summer I finally finished the front porch, which I had to jack up so that it could bear concrete footings.

We relocated where we brought that place, so fixing it up was a natural way to restore neighbors. Kids used to ride by on their bikes and ask, "Are you ever going to be finished?" Some of them are almost college age now. We hope to stay in the house for a long time. Now we have to make the interior look as good as the outside

Jim and Margee Wyka

LAKE MILLS, WISCONSIN

WHAT THEY DID: Spent years reestablishing neglected 1880s Queen Anne, bringing its handsome clapboard facade back to life.



THEIR STORY:

Margee and I have renovated 39 homes during our 36 years of marriage, so we're used to taking on work. Still, when we bought this house, on a beautiful dead in 2006, we knew it was a doozy. It had been a two-family rental for 30-plus years, and there had been almost no upkeep during that time. The backyard was so overgrown that you couldn't see the back door—there were 2-inch-thick vines growing all over the facade and even into the water.

We cleaned it up enough to move in and decided to tackle the exterior first. Other than hiring a landscaper to get rid of the overgrowth, I did all the work myself—everything from putting on a new roof to back-pouring the foundation. Margee did most of the research and chose the colors,

**BEST
REDO**

MASTER SUITE

Edward and Penny Thomas HYPER, MASSACHUSETTS

WHAT THEY DID: Transformed a dark and drafty attic into the luxurious master suite of their dreams.



THEIR STORY: For years, Penny and I slept in a cramped downstairs bedroom as we finished out building a master suite in the attic of our 3800s Colonial Revival. Working nights and weekends, we honed our skills as we renovated rooms on the first two floors, slowly working our way up to the crumbling plaster walls above.

The 800-square-foot space was long and narrow, with 15-foot ceilings, so we worked with a designer to create a floor plan that included a three-quarter bathroom and a walk-in closet in addition to the bedroom. I cut the walls, adding light and air, and they wouldn't be damaged during demolition, and saving the original square walls. We hired pros to rough in the rooms, including running electrical and plumbing lines, and to spray in foam insulation and focused on the part I love—fin carpentry.

Before Penny and I met, I would spend weekends rewatching episodes of *The New Yankee Workshop* and re-creating Norm's projects. It paid off. I made nearly all the furniture myself, including the built-in vanity, dining table for Penny, and the dresser in the bedroom alone wall. To separate the spaces, I built pocket doors and



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A hallway connects the "thermostat" bedroom to a bath and a walk-in closet. The floorboards were removed and individually planed. Exterior built wood of the furniture for the bright master suite.



BEST REDO YARD

Mike Sela

DAMASCUS
OREGON

WHAT HE DID: Crafted a new cedar deck, complete with a stunning glassed-in sitting room, using almost exclusively recycled materials.



HIS STORY: I've salvaged and upcycled for my whole life, so I already had most of

the materials I needed to build a new deck when my wife, Kathleen, put her leg through the rotting boards of the old one. I knew how I would make it up to her: Doing my working man's job as a glass installer, I'd saved hundreds of patio-door glass panels from the Dumpsters, and I thought they'd be perfect for sheltering an outdoor seating area. Oregon weather is unpredictable, so it's nice to go out there and not have to worry about getting on wet cushions.

The only supplies I bought were five panels of corrugated plastic for the breezeway roof, deck screws, and several 2x4s to replace rotting floor joists. Then I just pulled out my materials and started putting boards together.

I replaced all the rotting joists with salvaged 4x6s, hung new floor joists, and covered them with corrugated metal roofing to create dry storage underneath. All the decking was canted from my next-door neighbor, and I didn't realize the weathered boards were beautiful clear cedar until I started sawing them through my planer. I cut them into 4-foot lengths and made modular panels that would be easy to remove when making



repairs and clearing up tree debris.

Priming out the glass house was tricky because you can't cut tempered glass—it will shatter. The spraying had to be perfect. I reached the edges of 2x4s to accept the glass, then custom-built frames for each panel and set them with foam tape and silicone. I built the roof's ridge out of cedar shingles (lumberyard find!), and, except for the side open to the breezeway, the structure is watertight. It never really gets hot, since we're on a wooded lot. And in winter, I close up the breezeway with extra mirror glass panels to keep out the rain and snow.

Using salvaged materials for new construction is like doing a puzzle, but it's satisfying what you can create when you put your mind to it. ■



Before

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Mike Sela salvaged five panels to extend the glass house beyond the deck's front edge. He built the original deck 30 years ago, after building the house itself the wicker furniture was a Craigslist score, and the pendant is now a kind of discarded guitar.



TOP: Edwardine barn-style sliding doors to show off the walk-in closet. **ABOVE:** By hanging a tub, the couple was able to fit a large vanity and a master shower in the master bath. **RIGHT:** The shower tucked under the roof's slope. **BEHIND:** Sela's.



used my router to create details to match our home's original doors.

As proud as I am of all of the carpentry. Though the pine floors staid out as the heart and soul of the entire suite. We re-sanded each board through planer to strip the surface with minimal dust. We were tempted to install them with a nail gun, but we knew it'd never match the look of the original iron square nails, which were hand-forged by a blacksmith more than 100 years ago. So we hammered each of the 806 nails flat on my workbench and used them to fasten the pine planks over the new subfloor before staining and finishing them.

In the final weeks of the renovation, Penny meticulously filled thousands of holes that I'd left in the molding and trim. To complete the space, we painted the walls, choosing a calming gray for the bedroom—a reminder that this is finally a place to relax. After two long years of work, our master suite has become our favorite part of the house. Our only regret is not having started the project sooner!

2013
WINNERS

MOXIE AWARDS

Apparently, no project is impossible for these special readers. From remodeling a bathroom one tile at a time to setting 53 tons of retaining-wall blocks by hand, they don't know the meaning of "quit." BY CHRIS WYMOND



done it after dark.

THE "TIMING IS EVERYTHING" AWARD

Christine and Matt Price
LARCHMONT, NEW YORK



Some people believe that major home-improvement projects should be scheduled for periods when you have the time and energy to tackle them. Not the Prices. They overhauled their apartment's 1980s-style bathroom solely during the hours prohibited by the building's every tenant—after 5 p.m., when the two had knocked off from their full-time jobs.

The money they had to do it very quietly. And, as a result, very slowly. "We used some coverings and cloths to pry the tiles off one by one so that we could catch them before they clattered on the floor," Christine says. "The demo alone took a week." The couple discreetly carried out the debris to 3-gallon buckets and made sure to sneak in shovels of drywall, the new bathtub, and other large supplies when the building's super was off duty.

Five weeks and zero noise complaints later, the effort paid off. "It probably would have taken us anything or a couple of weeks if we hadn't needed to be so stealthy," Christine says. "Everything is so much cleaner looking now."



THE "THIRD TIME'S A CHARM" AWARD

Nancie Wallace
SCARFEST, KENTUCKY

To fully appreciate Nancie's unyielding determination, just step inside her front door. At your feet, you'll find the elegant vine-and-leaf border she spent days hand-painting on the new ash floor. Not once, not twice, but three times.

The first go-round took nearly 40 hours of careful brushwork with a gel stain, homemade stencils, and lots of Q-tips to remove shop marks. "I like things that curve and flow," she says, "so I drew the pattern by hand." She hired a contractor to preserve her work with two coats of polyurethane. Unfortunately, a mischievous buffer inadvertently erased part of it. "They called my husband first," she recounts. "I was almost in tears."

But Nancie perked herself up—or rather, plopped herself down—and got back to it. Another 40 hours, another masterpiece. That also survived nearly 18 months before the job started to flake off for reasons nobody can explain.

At this stage, the average Jane might have safely assumed the project was doctored. That's not Nancie. Nancie called in the sanders and insisted on watching as her work was wiped out. Then she bought herself a nice natural-bristle brush and put the floor once again. "It was a bit threatening," she says, "but worth the do-over."

THE "FEAR FACTOR" AWARD

Eric Means
GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS



When Eric peered back the aluminum siding on his home, he discovered more than 40 wasps' nests—as well as a new phobia. For the next six weeks he was re-sided, he lived in a constant state of red alert. "He would do these semi-hispanic things on the ladder in order to dodge the stings," says his wife, Carmen. "I swear he was less afraid of falling than he was of getting stung." He began stocking his bed with two cans of high-powered pest repellent. "I would occasionally hear a scream, voice choice: expletives, and the spray," she says. The bees are gone, the new siding is in place, but the itchy remains.



THE "STUBBORN AS A ROCK" AWARD

Wayne Brown
SALINEVILLE, OHIO



Wayne discovered his nemesis lurking beneath his property, while he was trying to erect a fence post. His wife, Donna, had visions of making the massive rock the centerpiece of an outdoor sitting area. But first it had to be excavated. No matter what they tried, the slab would not budge. "That's when I started to get personal for him," says Donna.

Wayne's eventual triumph did not come without cost. It took a tractor, a posthole digger, and two firefighters to free the behemoth from the soil. The price and danger factor of his fight were severe: between the tractor and the digger. "We had to go to the ER to get them even back up," says Donna. "His fingers took a little wacky now, but at least the patio area is where they belong."

More important, so is Wayne's boulder. Dubbed "Don's rock" by the couple's kids, the beast now serves as a sort of standalone fire ring, thanks to a hole Wayne drilled through its core for gas to flow. Don and Donna's gathering spot comes with its own story story.

"With a shovel and a wheelbarrow, I moved 22 tons of stone, 7 tons of sand, and 3 tons of dirt to build my patio." —Richard Alix, BRIDGEPORT, WEST VIRGINIA



THE "MAKE IT WORK" AWARD

Jim and Beth Roberts
HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY



When it came time to redo their home's exterior, the Roberts faced two big challenges: limited funds and limited mobility. Beth, who has basic-discussed arthritis for 37 years, couldn't assist her arms above her head. And Jim's two fixed vertebrae kept him from lifting anything heavier than 60 pounds.

So the couple invented creative work-arounds. "Anything can be moved with a fulcrum and a big enough lever," says Jim. He built a wood bracket to position pieces of siding, propped up by a long 2x4 that Beth scooped from the ground. To reduce the amount of time things had to be in place, they drilled holes and secured nails behind him. But their most ingenious feat was transporting a concrete pad 35 feet from the front stairs to the car by rolling it on ice-paint pans, "just like they did when making the pyramids," says Beth.



THE "POWER OF NATURE" AWARD

Diana Lovejoy CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA



As an amateur florist, Diana has always been fit. But for 25 years her body confounded her. She suffered through eight miscarriages and could find no relief from chronic pain and a life-sapping fatigue. Acupuncture, holistic medicine, meditation, hyperbaric oxygen therapy—nothing worked. So she came up with her own treatment, revamping her front yard. "I just needed something to make myself feel sane," she says. She removed sod, graded dirt, placed flowers, and filled empty spaces with a Dr. Seuss selection of succulents. Not the roughest work for someone in constant pain. "It hurt to even bend over and pick up a rock," she says. As the project neared completion, Diana was diagnosed with fibromyalgia and given a treatment that has filled her with new hope. Last September, she gave birth to a baby boy, Kain. "I put as much love and energy as I could into these plants," she says. "and they gave back."

THE "GOLDILOCKS" AWARD

Kelly Freeman DANVILLE, ILLINOIS



When Kelly last her husband to lung cancer eight years ago, she also lost her home. "I just kept moving," she says. As circumstances changed, she uprooted herself four times before finding a 45-year-old house that needed new bathrooms, an updated kitchen, landscaping, and all so much more. "I could see that it was going to be perfect when I got done with it," she says. "It just clicked." She refurbished the bathrooms and bedrooms, then relocated the master bedroom. After revisiting wallpaper and flooring, she created a big front-side of a main part as a final touch. "Now this home feels like home," she says. "It's the right size, it's well-built, I love it!" Say good-bye to the top gas

"It took three years to remodel my bathroom because I made four or five cuts on each piece to make sure the fit was perfect."

—Jim Fausch, GLEN HARM, MARYLAND



THE "KILLER TILLER" AWARD

Caroline Hineslow SHERIDAN, INDIANA



As a former framing carpenter, Caroline knew what it would take to rebuild her home. She never dreamed she'd shed her nursing skills, too. She went to learn her tiller and it jumped into reverse, pulling her against the wall, the lines of it above her left knee, almost to the back. A tilted rubber floor, but she covered the grass. "He said, 'I'm calling 911.' I said, 'Don't you dare! But I wouldn't get up to stop him,'" she says. She hadn't wanted the loss of an ambulance ride, but she dressed the wound and waited. Eight days and three surgeries later, she returned from the hospital propped her leg up in a cast, and dipped over to her unfinished project. Soon she was up and a ladder, working on the wiring. The doctor who performed her skin graft was baffled. Caroline stands by her priorities. "I have a limp, she says. "But I also have a beautiful home."



THE "GO BIG OR GO HOME" AWARD

Gart's Conkey BLACK FOREST, COLORADO



Not many people look at a closet barely deep enough for a ladder and think, I should turn this into a multi-use space complete with cooler and dryer. But Gart's didn't he want to recognize the upstairs bedrooms for some extra storage. The harder part was what had to happen to the water line into the upper floor. "I had to jackhammer a whole section of the basement floor," Gart says. Then he and a buddy used concrete-cutting blades on their Skidners to carve a trench. "At some point you think it's a little crazy, but I figured, well, I've got this hole in my house, so I might as well keep going." And so he did, at the cost of thousands of dollars. But being able to put clothes straight from the dryer onto their hangers? Now that's precious.



THE "LABOR OF LOVE" AWARD

Chris Bolinger PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS

When Chris and his wife, Peggy, saw the 50 stained glass windows, they knew they had to have the 14-year Queen Anne. "I wanted to fix the years of bad workmanship and neglect," he says. So the couple went to work repairing holes, removing wallpaper 30 layers thick, including melting out their nail and painstakingly restoring the 1930s fireplace in the parlor. Chris dug up the overgrown lawn in pieces from the basement and replaced broken tiles in the hearth with actual originals he placed them back in the coal burners. To replace the long, lost glow, he installed a vent-free fireplace. And then the family was hit with some major setbacks. The economy crashed. Chris's home-and-cottage business dried up, and Peggy was diagnosed with breast cancer. As the bills mounted, they lost their beloved home to foreclosure. But Chris says it's no means a little ending. Peggy has since regained her health, and his restoring the house was more important than owning it. "Not everyone gets to experience the satisfaction of walking away from a project you can be proud of," he says. "We feel lucky that we got to live there for 30 years and make it better for the next owners. We love our new place and have started over. Life is good!"



THE "I GOT THIS" AWARD

Mendi Hall PHOENIX



"A bag of clay is eight bucks," says Mendi. "Nobody's probably as crazy as me, but making clay myself was the cheapest way to do a counter top." So she rolled and cut 1,262 2-inch square tiles for the flat surfaces and formed 150 edge pieces. Then she kiln-fired them all over and glazed them three times before installing them. "I try not to even think about how many hours it took," she says. "It's not a project for someone who needs instant gratification."

THE "OORAH!" AWARD

Charles Wright COTTONVILLE, ALABAMA



With 22 years of service under his belt, Charles still approaches life's battles like a Marine. "Problems? What's coming off? I'll be a gang under the house," he told us. "Solutions? Remove the debris." In its place he built a massive L-shaped retaining wall. Over 39 days, he single-handedly excavated the site with a rented backhoe, hefted 1,482 GeoStone blocks—50 tons' worth—in place, and backfilled the structure with 362 tons of gravel. Today, the wall stretches 90 feet across the driveway and 60 feet in another. At its tallest point, it stands 14 feet high. GeoStone was so impressed the company gifted photos on its website. Says the Veterans vet: "They called it the Great Wall of Charles."



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READER TIPS

that save time and money

Faced with the same conundrums that crop up around everyone's house, the can-do readers of TOH have come up with a trove of ingenious, useful ways to make working on and living in your home a little easier

1 | Sew-through cabinet shelves



I'm not a tail person and I wanted to be able to sew the items stored in my sewing kitchen cabinets. So I refitted super clear, iron-free glass shelves. It's a black. Now I always know what's up there. **Roseanne Pease**, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

2 | Chilled wax makes better seals

Before you set a toilet, check its wax ring in the fridge for 15 to 30 minutes to cool it down. The hardened wax stands up to the weight of the ceramic and doesn't run off any old fingers or leave your tools all slippery

A cold ring means that the seal will be tight—no more greased fingers on that first flush. **Steve Martes**, PITTSBURGH

3 | Pinecone picker-upper



When my 14-year-old son was across the mountain North Carolina picking up all the pinecones can be a real headache. My friend's grandfather had a granddaddy of an idea: Tap the cones into a long handle, holding it with your foot. Surprisingly, the pinecones fall easily out of the net when you turn it upside down. **Kelly Kartz**, GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

4 | Easy cuts in vinyl

Cutting vinyl siding with a utility knife is hard work and hard to do well, so I use a microcutter fitted with a 4½-inch abrasive cutting wheel. This setup makes it easy to follow a line and to make plunge cuts when fitting the siding around doors, windows and other trim. Plus, the wheel automatically sands edges in both directions. I wear out **Kathleen LeBlond**, KINGSTON, NEW SCOTIA, CANADA

5 | Nut guard

Unsettled and always kept falling into our outdoor AC unit, which had to be cleaned out every year. To avoid that, I covered it with ¼-inch hard-plastic sheets fastened with the same screws that hold the housing together. That's one less cleaning chore I have to do. **Bob Arrier**, LOZELLA, GEORGIA

6 | Fake webbing for fall



You know those fake spiderwebs that show up anywhere around Halloween? Draped over bushes and flower beds, they make great last October's white-nothing, appropriately spooky. **Tim Kuchler**, ROLLING MEADOWS, ILLINOIS

over window wells and they eliminate the unpleasant chore of taking or vacuuming out wet leaves. And once all the leaves have dropped, I simply roll up the webbing along with the fake web leaves and toss out the whole mess. **Kyle Boland**, LINCOLN, KANSAS

7 | Hole-sewing made easier (in metal)



The next time you have to hole-saw through a first-hole saw through one of those big yellow car-washing sponges

Leave the plug of sponge inside the saw and soak it with some cutting fluid. When you push the saw into the metal, the cutting fluid is squeezed out of the sponge, giving you a cleaner, faster cut that will preserve your hole saws. Store the sponge in a container with a tight-fitting lid and reapply fluid when you use the hole saw again. **Mark Rink**, WORTH, DARTMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

8 | No-chemical grass killer

If you're looking to kill some grass to create a new garden bed, you don't need chemicals or expensive rental machines—or much effort, really—if you take your time and use folded cardboard boxes. Lay the cardboard over the grass you want to get rid of and weight it down. It will have done its job when the grass shrivels up and turns brown. You can leave it in place and dig right through it if you're planning a new garden bed, or you're digging a lot of times. It's easy enough to pull up the cardboard. **Doreen De Bree**, South GARY, INDIANA

9 | Coping mechanism

After coping in with a low-lustered sewing kit, I went on my rotary tool to line. I used it to **Tim Kuchler**, ROLLING MEADOWS, ILLINOIS

10 | Jam-busting trick



When I started to install the trim in a door for a new lock, I used a small piece of double-stick tape on the end of an unframed door. Then I closed the door and turned the bolt as if I'm locking it. The tape comes off the bolt and sticks to the trim at the exact location where I need to check out the trim. **Mark Rink**, WORTH, DARTMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

11 | Glove-saver

While putting on my kitchen gloves, I was going through the gloves I had. Every time I wanted to grab something with a close hand, I'd take a glove off and toss it. But then I found I could wear a glove from one hand halfway off the other. So what I needed with my clean hands, and so the glove broke on. It's a lot more mileage out of each package of gloves. **Perla Qian**, MOOREHEAD, MINNESOTA



12
Julie Sindora
SEATTLE

FIND FASTENERS FAST

Take a screw or a nail to the outside of the box it came in so that you can see at a glance exactly what's inside.

15

Michael Gringerella
HOPKINSTON, RHODE ISLAND**HOLE-SAWING MADE EASIER (IN WOOD)**

Make a shallow circular kerf with a hole saw, then set it aside and use a regular twist bit to drill a handful of 1/4-inch relief holes just inside of and touching the kerf. Now when you resume cutting, the small holes capture the sawdust, reducing friction and effort.

For 2 to 3 minutes and shake again. Pour out the dirty water, then make the roller even less, warm water and detergent. When the roller is clean, use a paint hose to add warm, clean water to the jar and shake well. Repeat for some the roller thoroughly and lay it out to dry. This is a real money saver.
Mary Jalur Cedeno
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

Screw-grip tip

Tired of Phillips-head screws falling off the screwdriver? Stick a little modeling clay or pliable compound on the tip of the screwdriver before you pull it in place. I've found this to be particularly useful with screws made of brass or aluminum.
Ed Williams
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Stump-removal trick

Here is a quick way to take a tree stump: Use a gas-powered stump puller, standing to act as a lever. Next, use a reciprocating saw with a 9- or 12-inch pruning blade to make two vertical cuts around the trunk, one 4 to 6 inches out from the trunk and the other a foot out from the first. Now dig a trench between these cuts, pull the trunk over at a 45-degree angle and saw through as many roots as you see. Finally, pull the trunk over in the opposite direction, cut the remaining

roots, and yank the stump out of the ground. With this method, I can remove tree stumps as big as 34 inches in diameter at about half the cost.
John Makris
RIO RANCHO, NEW MEXICO

Rod and post extractor

To remove a grounding rod or a fence post, wrap a small chain (1/2-inch diameter) and hold the chain in place with locking pliers. Hook the chain over the nose of a high lift jack, place the jack on a piece of plywood and, to what you're removing, and start pumping. The jack will lift the post or rod straight out of the ground.
Jack Grimmer
DARTMOUTH, OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Adjustable marks for string lines

When making a straight line with a string line, mark the string with paper clips rather than hole punches. They're only a half-inch wide, so you can move them out of the way when you need to put a nail in the line.
WEST LAWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Tub whitener

As the moldy pads on my car's floor mats went away, I tried many different ways to get rid of

rotting, old yellow stains that were left behind after washing. Finally, I came up with the answer: Soak whiteening strips. They removed all the yellow staining on the colored my tub.
Archie Arnes
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Warm tape, better stick

If blue painter tape isn't coming off the oil easily, place the tape in the microwave for 20 to 25 seconds. That's enough to soften the glue and allow the tape to pull off easily. Warm tape is also better at slopping paint from bleeding under the edge.
Stephen Miller
BATAVIA, NEW YORK

Make curves with pipe

To describe an arc, use a length of Mylar PE tubing. It's flexible enough to bend but stiff enough to keep its shape as you run a pencil along it. Hold the pipe against a wall and make the curve you want, and lock it down with many clothespins or staples.
Rick Ruffalo
BOSTON

Get a grip on headless nails

Headless nails pull and split and have no head? Just clamp locking pliers onto the nail, a exposed end of the nail, a pry bar or a hammer between the jaws of the pliers and the surface the nail is stuck in. Apply some muscle to the hammer or pry bar, and the nail comes out with minimal wood or sheetrock damage. My 20-year-old son showed me how to do this while working on his 500-year-old house in Minneapolis. He taught this old dog a new trick.
John J. Schepers
CHICAGO

Flatter funnel

Every time I added oil to my lawnmower, it would splash or slowly drip glue down the funnel. So I made my own no-glue funnel with

a straw and an empty plastic water bottle. Here's how: Slice off the bottom of a bottle at a 60-degree angle and discard. On the remaining part of the bottle, near the top, end of this cut, make a hole in the plastic with a paper punch. Insert a straw through the hole and into the bottle's neck. The straw gives the displaced air in the tank a chance to escape, eliminating the gugging and splashing.
David S. Rude
SEQUEM, WASHINGTON

Mirror, mirror, go away

To get rid of the mirror tiles that covered a wall in my kitchen, I first covered the tiles entirely with sections of carpet protector, a thick adhesive-backed plastic that comes on a roll. Then I went at the tiles with a hammer, breaking them into small pieces. When I peeled off the sticky protector, most of the tiles and shards came with it. I just rolled up the plastic with the

shattered tiles inside and dropped it in the trash. The remaining bits that stuck to the wall popped off with a putty knife. For both sides of the project, I made sure to wear safety goggles, leather gloves, long sleeves, long pants, and work boots.
Rick Proffitt
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

Slug stopper

When the service technician accounted for the PVC condensate drain line for my heat pump, a lot of bugs and slugs came out. He told me this was not uncommon and that he've found snakes in there. So I marked an oval wire-mesh sink-drain strainer into the wide end of a 1/4-to-3/4-inch PVC adapter and fed the strainer in place with silicone adhesive. The adapter is small and fits into the drain line without glue, allowing the technician to pop it off and clean it. No more bugs, no more slugs.
Dave Elgin
BELTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



TIPS & ADVICE
For more handy tips from 100 readers, scan this page with the Reader app or go to readers.tips.com/jul2014

27

Isaac Wilcy
LANCIRE, KANSAS**VACUUM BUMPERS**

Stick adhesive felt pads to the front and sides of your upright vacuum so that it can glide against baseboards without scratching or scuffing the finish.

**Remember the stain**

When I'm staining doors, I use a marker to write down the stain color on the top edge of the door. No one sees it, but I have a reminder of the color in case I ever have to re-stain. Works with paint, too.
Tom J. Tappin
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

Mini-roller cleanup

Instead of buying new 4-inch rollers when painting, I have an easy way to refresh the old ones: clean. Take a jar with a tight-fitting lid and fill it with warm water and a teaspoon of dishwashing detergent. Squash in most paint out of the roller, dry it out, then dip it into the jar and shake the jar for a minute. Let it sit



Take a jar with a tight-fitting lid and fill it with warm water and a teaspoon of dishwashing detergent. Squash in most paint out of the roller, dry it out, then dip it into the jar and shake the jar for a minute. Let it sit



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Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

INSIDE
RETAINING-WALL REDO / LEVEL A SUBFLOOR
/ SOLVE A HOT-WATER SHORTAGE / MORE

THIS ISSUE,
reader experts
provide the
answers

Clamp in a pinch



Some years ago, I had to glue up stained panels on a job site, but I left my big clamps back at my shop. So, using a couple of screws and some pieces of scrap, I created a custom clamp like the one at left. The two short blocks are screwed to the strip about a half inch beyond the edges of the assembly. Angling the ends of the strip in opposite directions pushes the blocks against the work. After the glue sets, I release the blocks by cranking the strip the other way. Then I just scrap my makeshift tool.

—Ron Seals, Olathe, Kan.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
TURNER KIM

Caricatures
of reader
experts



GARY FINKLER
Boulder, Colorado
Curbline Canada Ltd.,
an Ontario Bay Ontario
Toronto (in 1999) 33



MICHAEL BOND
Cincinnati, Ohio
H&M Construction Co.
H&M Construction Co.
H&M Construction Co.



MAURICE TUERKSEN
Kaiser, Ohio
The Ohio State University
The Ohio State University
The Ohio State University



TED CASPER
Lansing, Michigan
Landscape Architecture
Landscape Architecture
Landscape Architecture

This issue, the TOH show guys are turning over the reins to a group of reader experts plucked from our online discussion boards and Facebook community. Norm, Tom, Roger, and Richard will be back next month, but if you need help with your home-improvement projects before then, go to advice.thisoldhouse.com or facebook.com/thisoldhouse to ask for answers.

Our retaining walls, built in 1989 out of railroad ties, are showing signs of rot. Can we repair them or do they have to be replaced?

—ALEXANDRA GANTZ/LETT CARR, INC.



A "living" wall of boulders and plants is a handsome alternative to a rot-prone retaining wall made of landscape timbers.

Tom Garter replies: Wood retaining walls have a life span of about 25 years, so it's definitely time to replace them. But before you can cut to buy more landscape timbers, consider a sloped "living" wall of boulders and plants. Such a wall is simple to build and will never rot, but it's not a job for a spouse and a wheelbarrow. You'll need to hire an excavating company that has the equipment to lift and place the stones, which can each be up to 32 inches across.

After the boulders are in place and the earth behind them is graded to a reasonable pitch, the excavating contractor will cover the soil locally with heavy-duty landscape fabric and press the boulders in place. You can fill in the open pockets between the stones with loam and mulch and cut a hole through the fabric to make way for roses wherever you plant something.

Look for plants that are low-growing and easy to care for, such as clematis, sedum, creeping periwinkle, and climbing hydrangea.



ROGER COOK
COMMENTS: Another alternative, if you prefer to do yourself, is to build a retaining wall from railroad ties. They look as natural as boulders but they won't rot like railroad ties.

Floor not level

After gutting our bedroom, I discovered the subfloor isn't level. How do I fix it before I start tiling?

—PETER FOMCOUR
ESTLING HEIGHTS, MICH

Michael Bond replies: If your floor is out of level by less than an inch or is slightly wavy, you can use floor

Avoid the baring pines of an ivy mat (RIGHT) by planting these shade-tolerant alternatives (BELOW, FROM LEFT): heart strawberry, Siberian carpet cypress and climbing hydrangea.



leveler, a type of concrete that has the consistency of putty. Use until it sets. I prefer cement-based levelers, which aren't as sensitive to moisture as epoxy-based levelers.

Run a strip of wood across the doorway to contain the leveler, then use a mixing paddle and a heavy-duty drill to blend the leveler with water to a creamy consistency. Pour it on the floor in closely spaced dollops, which will flow into one another and harden into a smooth and level surface. Each bag covers about 25 square feet—less if the floor's profile varies by more than 1/4 inch. Saw-toothed or fiber-reinforced backer board to the cured, leveled floor, and do your tiling.

If your floor is more than an inch out of level, pull up the subfloor and fasten new "joists"—one joist to the existing joists with construction adhesive and deck screws. Use a 4-foot level to check that the new joists are level. Top them with 1/2-inch plywood subfloor, followed by backer board, and then tile.

needs to go. Can you tell us how to get rid of it, and which low-maintenance plants to use instead?

—ANGELA CHENNING, COLUMBIA, MO

Tom Garter replies: By now, you're deeply rooted, so the best way to remove it is to simply dig it out using sharp spades. Once you get under the ivy root mat, you should be able to cut and roll it up like soil.

You don't say what the exposure is, but, assuming it's a shaded area, consider replacing the ivy with Siberian carpet cypress (*Microbiota decussata*). It's a tough, drought-resistant evergreen with soft, papery-like foliage and good soil-retention ability. And unlike most cypresses, it tolerates some shade. A good companion plant to the carpet cypress is heart strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), an easy-to-care-for perennial groundcover with lobed foliage and a splash of yellow flowers in spring. If you want to keep a vine in this landscape, climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*) is a clean, architectural alternative. It's ivy-level exposure-wise.

After planting the new specimens, cover the exposed soil with mulch to prevent erosion until the new ground covers take over.

Ivy invasion

The ivy creepily planted to prevent erosion behind my house has completely taken over and



PROJECT OF THE WEEK

HOW TO BUILD A TREE SWING



Create a playground in your own backyard with an old-fashioned rope swing. Making that swing requires few tools, and all the hardware can be found at your local home center. The seat is inexpensive—you can even make it out of scrap wood. Quality hardware and rope increase the cost, but are important for safe swinging. In one morning you can put the parts together, get the rope in place, and start your magic ride.

Select a tree with a sturdy limb that's parallel to the ground and at least 6 inches thick. Make sure there's room for the seat to swing freely without hitting the tree trunk. And be sure the limb is healthy, so that it won't break under a child's weight.

You'll find all the tools and supplies necessary for this—and any—home project at The Home Depot nearest you.

For easy how-to instructions and a list of the tools and materials you'll need, go to thisoldhouse.com/project

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/ROMAN

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

What is it?



TOM SILVA SAYS
If I lost my keys and had to pick a lock, this tool would be the job.



ROGER COOK SAYS
Criminals use this to make sure their lock is of legal size.



RICHARD TRETHEWEY SAYS
It's less for cows. Shouldn't we all come about bovine dental hygiene?



NORM ABRAM SAYS
I think it's a specialized layout tool for drawing large circles.

What do you think? FOR THE ANSWER, SEE PAGE 108



ROGER COOK COMMENTS My is a tough-and-permanent vine that will regrow from any little bit that's left behind. After stripping it, be safe. I put down landscape fabric to block it from coming back. Just cut holes in the fabric whenever you want to plant new groundcover.

Wire a ceiling fixture
We want to hang a new ceiling light, which has a white, a black, and a bare ground wire. In the ceiling, there are two yellow wires, plus a black and a green wire. Which wire goes with which? Also, do we need to put in an electrical box? There isn't one there now.

—JOHN SCOTT FRIEDLAUF, NIS

Maizee Targione replies: Easy question, first. Yes, an electrical box is always required whenever wires will be connected. A standard box is adequate if the new fixture weighs 6 pounds or less. Otherwise, get a box rated to carry the weight of the fixture. Make sure the box is securely attached to the framing, an bottom edge is flush with the ceiling, and the gap around it is no more than 1/8 inch.

Now on to the wires, yellow for use as a "hot" conductor, completing the circuit to the switch. But don't always be a neutral wire, so either you have a dedicated white wire or whoever did the wiring didn't follow the usual wire-color convention.

To find which ceiling wire is the neutral, use a voltmeter to measure for voltage between each yellow wire and the ground. If no voltage is present, switch the meter to the

This Old House blueprint

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Before installing any light fixture, test the wires to be sure the power is off.

resistance scale and test for continuity. If the reading is zero or nearly so, you found the white, or neutral, wire.

Once you've identified the white wire, switch off the power and feed the ceiling wires through the box. Use wire nuts to connect the black fixture wire to both the orange yellow and the black ceiling wires; the white fixture wire to the white ceiling wire; and the bare ground fixture wire to the bare ground fixture wire inside electrical box and then to the green ceiling wire.

Also, when using wire nuts, you will get a much better connection if you twist the wires together first, clockwise, then twist on the nut. 'Tug on the wires to ensure that they're

What is it?

STUD-FINDER
Long before there were bleeping electronic stud finders, this simple \$5 tool from the 20th-century was inserted through a hole to locate studs inside a wall. No batteries required.



well joined to each other and to the rest—loose connections account for 90 percent of all electrical problems.

Hot-water shortage

Our 55-gallon water heater can't keep up with the demand from our new spa shower and extra-large tub. Should we get a larger tank or add a tankless unit?

—ANTHONY UPSHOM
SOLINABEACH, CALIF.

Worry Power! replies: Multihead spa showers and large soaker tubs can empty a water-heater tank in no time, but you do have a couple of ways to make up the shortfall. If your existing tank is fairly new, the least-expensive solution would be to keep it and add another tank so that they both feed hot water to each other. Alternatively, you could add a second tank or a tankless water heater that would supply only the new spa bath room. Your existing tank could pro-



RICHAUD TRETHEWY COMMENTS: To calculate how long a shower you can take with a multihead body spray supplied by a water tank, multiply the number of showerheads by their gpm rating. A standard head delivers 2.5 gallons per minute, so four such heads will empty a 50-gallon tank in just 5 minutes. That's a lot of water! ■



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Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

Go to thisoldhouse.com/askah or write to Ask This Old House, This Old House magazine, 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10019.

Include a complete address and daytime phone number. Published questions will be edited for clarity and length and may be used without notice. We regret that, because of the volume of mail received, we cannot reply to unsolicited questions.

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Dear This Old House,
This sweet Folk
Victorian cottage
needs your help! It's
located just down

the streets from me in Portland's historic Old Town district, which was named a TOW "Best Old-House Neighborhood" back in 2009. So when I learned that the house in northwest Portland was scheduled to be demolished by a developer, I had to write. We locals love that area for its great restaurants and walkable streets, sure, but it's the rows of Craftsman and Queen Anne "workmen" cottages that give the area its character.

If you're curious about its history, the house was built in 1890 for Edwin Raywirth, a housepainter and wallpaper hanger. Later, it was sold to a son of a lumberman and longshoreman, who plied their trades on the nearby Willamette River. While the 1,730-square-foot house may not be as grand as the Queen Anne's that inspired it, it has stolen back sections of many of the same period details. The exterior features decorative porch brackets, spindle-work, and gable ornaments. The interior boasts original heart-pine floors and moldings. The house is in good shape and was lived in until just three years ago.

I'm hoping a fellow reader will jump at the chance to relocate this charming cottage some where nearby. Whoever does can look forward to big-city living with a small town feel—not to mention plenty of friendly neighbors who share a passion for old houses.

Sincerely,
Cordelia Day



1) A local house mover has offered to take \$5,000 off the price to relocate the four bedrooms (one and a half bath) home within the city. 2) The exterior needs a fresh paint job, but the porch brackets and spindlework are in good condition. 3) A previous owner wanted and finished the back glass doors in the dining room, which sits just behind the entryway. 4) Tall windows in a breakfast room draw light into the dining room.

OWN A TRUCK?
If you know a real house that should be sold and is for sale write to Sarah Goldfarb at Homecor, Junior The Old House, 125 West 80th Street, New York, NY 10023.

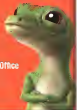
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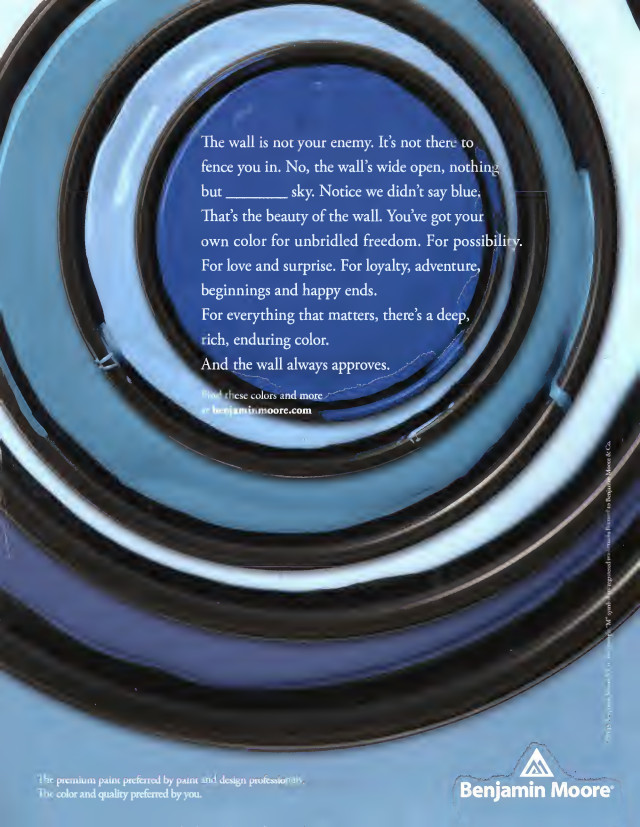
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